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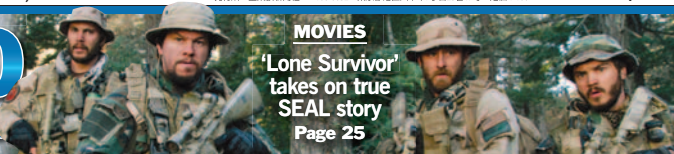
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'Lone Survivor' takes on true SEAL story

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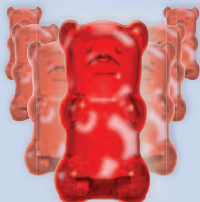
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Rivalries, intrigue in conference finals

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## Latest Air Force scandal: cheating

34 nuclear launch officers suspected of sharing proficiency test answers

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — On Wednesday, the Air Force's top civilian and military leaders revealed that 34 nuclear missile launch officers were involved in a cheating scandal surrounding proficiency tests conducted last year at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. The 34 personnel constitute about 18 percent of the missile officers stationed there.

"There was cheating that took

place with respect to this particular test," new Air Force Secretary Deborah James told reporters at the Pentagon. "Some officers did it. Others apparently knew about it, and it appears that they did nothing, or at least not enough to stop it or to report it. Now this is absolutely unacceptable behavior and it is completely contrary to our core values in the Air Force."

"Cheating or tolerating others who cheat runs counter to everything we

believe in as a service," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh said. "People at every level will be held accountable if and where appropriate."

Over the weekend, the Air Force's Office of Special Investigation found evidence that a missile launch officer from the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom texted answers to monthly missile launch officer proficiency tests to 16 other officers.

SEE CHEATING ON PAGE 2

'Cheating or tolerating others who cheat runs counter to everything we believe in as a service.'

Gen. Mark Welsh  
Air Force chief of staff

### EUROPEAN TERRORISM | PAGE 4



An ambulance leaves the site of a bomb blast in the city of Volgograd, Russia, on Dec. 30. A series of unexplained killings in southern Russia involving booby-trapped bombs has further heightened security fears ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

## Iraq seeks weapons from US, plans to ask for training

By LOVEDAY MORRIS  
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Iraq has provided Washington with a list of weapons it needs to wrest back control from anti-government and al-Qaida-linked militants in restive Anbar

province, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said Thursday, and soon plans to request counterterrorism training from U.S. forces.

The United States is working on providing the medium and light weapons, including another shipment of Hellfire missiles, al-Ma-

liki said in an interview here in the Iraqi capital. He said he submitted the wish list after a phone call with Vice President Biden on Tuesday.

Al-Maliki said he is seeking further U.S. military training for Iraqi forces in either Iraq or

neighboring Jordan, particularly on how to prevent and fight terrorist attacks. Secretary of State John F. Kerry said early this month that the United States was ready to help but would not send troops to assist in battle.

SEE IRAQ ON PAGE 2



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The decay is not cool, not arty-farty."

— Community activist and onetime mayoral candidate Jean Vorkamp, on the proliferation of tours of abandoned factories, churches and schools in Detroit, one of the city's few burgeoning industries

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## TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

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2. Photos surface of Marines apparently violating corpses in Iraq
3. Navy's No. 2 civilian resigns for having 'inappropriate relationship'
4. IG for Afghanistan paints grim picture of possible narco-crime spiral
5. 34 nuclear launch officers involved in Air Force cheating scandal

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# Iraq: Leader blames Syrian situation for rise in sectarianism

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Iraq's military is working with pro-government tribesmen in Anbar province to attempt to secure the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, which have been seized by the al-Qaida-linked Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. The extremists have been joined by some Sunni tribesmen from the province who oppose the rule of al-Maliki's Shiite-led government.

Unlike Apache helicopters that Iraq has been seeking from the United States for several years, without success, the shipment of lighter weapons does not require approval from Congress. Al-

Maliki traveled to Washington in November to press for more U.S. military support, but the recent crisis in Anbar has added urgency to his efforts.

The prime minister said he is "satisfied that we will achieve victory against al-Qaida." But he also cautioned that the situation here is complicated and intertwined with the bitter sectarian conflict in neighboring Syria. "The whole region's events are connected," he said. "To solve the problem in Iraq, we cannot look at it in isolation from the other events in the region."

The fall of Fallujah and Ramadi came during a pivotal period

for Iraq, just months before parliamentary elections, which al-Maliki said he expects to proceed on time.

Anbar, a majority Sunni province in a largely Shiite country, was the scene of regular protests in 2013, with residents and tribesmen complaining of sectarianism in state institutions.

Meanwhile, near-daily bombings have blighted Baghdad, making 2013 the worst year for violence since 2008, according to United Nations figures.

Al-Maliki said the problem of sectarianism in Iraq had been resolved in 2008 and 2009, but it was reintroduced as al-Qaida gained

a foothold as a result of spillover from the Syrian civil war. He said the Sunni violence has been "exported" to Iraq by another Arab country, an apparent jab at Saudi Arabia.

Al-Maliki said he had no regrets in forcing U.S. troops to leave Iraq in 2011, despite the situation that has unfolded in Anbar since then. Republicans in the U.S. Senate, including John McCain, of Arizona, and Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, said last week that if al-Maliki had permitted some troops to stay in the country, the situation in Anbar would be better today.

# Cheating: Official says flap not a failure of nuclear mission

## FROM FRONT PAGE

"We subsequently approached the entire missile crew force at Malmstrom and 17 other officers who self-admitted to at least being aware of material that had been shared," Welsh said. "We don't yet know how or if each of those officers used that material, but we do know that none of them reported the incident to their leadership."

Welsh said he is not aware of a cheating scandal this large in the history of the missile force.

All 34 involved have been de-certified as launch officers. They are restricted from missile crew duty and their security clearances have been suspended.

The OSI investigation into their individual involvement and the overall cheating scandal will continue, Welsh said. The officers vary in rank from second lieutenant to captain.

The Malmstrom wing failed a nuclear security inspection last August due to "a problem in a security scenario," but the failure was not related to carrying out operational procedures, Welsh said.

On Wednesday, the commander of Global Strike Command, which

oversees the Air Force's nuclear enterprise, ordered a proficiency test be administered to all missile crewmembers in all three of the nation's nuclear missile wings in the wake of the cheating at Malmstrom. As of Wednesday afternoon, about 20 percent of the entire missile crew force had taken the test, and 97 percent of them passed. There were three failures. The 97 percent pass rate matches historical averages, according to Welsh.

James said the testing of the entire force will be completed by the end of the day Thursday.

When asked about the motivation behind the cheating, Welsh said: "It's hard to cover up incompetence cheating one time on a test. When you're going to have a monthly simulator with two instructors watching you actually conduct the practical application of this knowledge in a simulator, you can't hide that."

"And so whether it's to get a better score on a test or — I just — I'd be speculating as to what it is, but I don't believe it's incompetence," Welsh said.

The cheating took place in August and September, according to officials.

"That we have no indications or evidence that it has occurred since that started," Welsh said.

James and Welsh will travel ahead of schedule to all of the ICBM bases next week. The other two are at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., and Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

"Secretary James and I will personally visit all of our missile bases ... next week to ensure that our airmen have no question

about our expectations of those who perform this vital mission," Welsh said.

Last week, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel visited F.E. Warren to talk to ICBM launch officers following reports of low morale and poor performance among the nation's missile crews.

"I want to talk also about continuing to hone our skills — our personal skills, our institutional skills, on focusing on our professionalism and how we handle our day-to-day responsibilities," Hagel told the airmen Jan. 9. "You've ... chosen a profession where there's no room for error. In what you do every day, there is no room for error. None."

This cheating scandal comes on the heels of revelations in recent days that three missile launch officers at Malmstrom and F.E. Warren were implicated in an illegal narcotics investigation. Eight personnel at other Air Force bases have been implicated as well.

The cheating at Malmstrom came to light during the course of the narcotics investigation this past weekend, Welsh said. Two of the 34 launch officers involved in the cheating scandal at Malmstrom also are involved in the drug scandal, Air Force officials said.

The narcotics scandal first came to light during Hagel's visit to F.E. Warren.

James acknowledged that the missile force faces personnel problems.

"I've heard that we have quality concerns about people. I'm also hearing that there are top-notch people," she said. "And my

guess is the truth is somewhere in between, but this is a force that needs attention. It is a top priority."

The Air Force leaders told reporters that the personnel issues don't pose a threat to the nuclear enterprise.

"I have great confidence in the security and the effectiveness of our ICBM force," James said. "This was a failure of some of our airmen. It was not a failure of the nuclear mission."

"This is not about the compromise of nuclear weapons," Welsh said. "It's about compromise of the integrity of some of our airmen."

Hagel was briefed on the cheating scandal Wednesday.

"Secretary Hagel was deeply troubled to learn of these allegations, and he strongly supports the aggressive steps the Air Force is taking in response to them," Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said in a statement Wednesday.

Welsh suggested that punishment will continue to be meted out to those who violate standards of conduct.

"Our actions as we move forward will be about making sure that every member of our Air Force understands that we will not accept or allow that type of behavior, that there is nothing more important to the nation than the integrity and the trustworthiness of the people who defend it, and that anyone who doesn't understand that should find another line of work," Welsh said.

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## MIDEAST



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was captured in Afghanistan in June 2009, has appeared in a new video believed to have been taken within the last month.**

# Video gives hope to family of GI held in captivity

By JOHN MILLER  
AND LOLITA C. BALDOR  
The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The family of U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was captured more than four years ago in Afghanistan, says a new video of the soldier believed to have been taken in the last month has bolstered its resolve to bring him home safely to Idaho.

U.S. officials confirmed Wednesday they'd received the video several days ago. They said it shows Bergdahl, now 27, in poorer health than previous footage taken in the years since he went missing in Afghanistan on June 30, 2009.

Bergdahl, from Hailey in central Idaho, is believed held by a group affiliated with the Taliban somewhere in Pakistan.

Irregular releases like this showing Bergdahl and his captors have offered hope for his parents their son will eventually be freed. The latest footage is no different, Bob and Jani Bergdahl said in a statement Wednesday.

"Naturally, this is very important to us and our resolve to continue our efforts to bring Bowe home as soon as possible," their statement said. "As we have done so many times over the past four and a half years, we request his captors to release him safely so that our only son can be reunited with his mother and father."

Bergdahl's parents have dedicated themselves full-time to doing what they can from thousands of miles away to secure his freedom.

Bob Bergdahl has grown a long, thick beard and sought to learn Pashto, the language spoken by his captors.

Though he has largely shunned interviews with the media, he has become a frequent presence on Internet social media sites

including Twitter, where he has posted hundreds of entries on issues connected to the U.S. war in Afghanistan, drone strikes in the region — and his son, including a tweet Wednesday afternoon.

"If you see this, continue to remain strong through patience," Bob Bergdahl wrote. "Your endurance will carry you to the finish line. Breathe!"

Bergdahl's family has been forced to remain patient, too.

So far, nothing has come of the Taliban's

proposal last June to free him in exchange for several of their most senior operatives now being detained at the U.S. detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. That offer lost steam after the Taliban only weeks later shuttered its newly opened office in the Gulf state of Qatar, abandoning a diplomatic approach while renewing its vow to fight Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government.

Even so, residents of Hailey, where Bowe Bergdahl spent most of his first 23 years before enlisting in the Army, continue to adorn the resort town's trees and utility poles with yellow ribbons, to keep him on their minds.

The U.S. officials who confirmed the video footage Wednesday were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

**'We request his captors to release him safely so that our only son can be reunited with his mother and father.'**

parents of U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl

# US war on Afghan drugs in peril amid force withdrawal

By CHRIS CARROLL  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan are in a "perilous state" despite billions of dollars spent to combat the spread of drug production there, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko told Congress on Wednesday.

Afghanistan is the world's leading source of opium, and opium production is the primary funding source for Taliban operations in the country, officials said in a hearing of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

"The situation in Afghanistan is dire with little prospect for improvement in 2014 or beyond," according to Sopko's written statement to Senate panel. "Afghan farmers are growing more opium poppies today than at any time in their modern history."

Poppy cultivation hit a record level in 2013, with 209,000 hectares — or about 516,000 acres — devoted to growing the picturesque red flowers that provide the base ingredient for opiate drugs, including heroin, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. That's a 36 percent increase over 2012.

The UN Office of Drugs and Crime estimates the value of opium and its heroin and morphine derivatives produced in Afghanistan in 2013 at nearly \$3 billion — an increase of 50 percent compared with 2012, Sopko said.

James Capra, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's chief of operations, told the panel Wednesday that rising drug production means 'Taliban income is on the rise.'

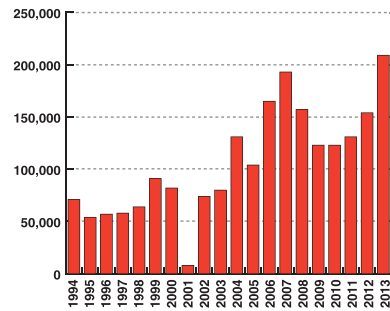
"The Taliban receives millions annual from narcotics-related activity" by taxing growers and producers, Capra said. That increases the insurgents' ability to provoke instability elsewhere in the region, he said.

Erin Logan, principal director of the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counter-

## A growing problem

Despite some \$7 billion spent on counternarcotics efforts since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom, poppy cultivation across Afghanistan continues to expand, with the 2013 yield being the highest on record.

Hectares (One hectare is roughly 2.5 acres)



Note: The report expresses the 2009-13 amounts with a 95 percent confidence interval; a statistics term that acknowledges a small likelihood of error.

SOURCE: UNODC, 'Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013: Summary Findings,' 11/2013

Stars and Stripes

narcotics and Global Threats, said heroin abuse is a growing problem in the United States, and the Department of Defense is intent on "disrupting the flow of these drugs as far away from our shores as possible."

The United States has poured vast sums of money into an effort to fight the problem since the beginning of the war in Afghanistan, Sopko reported.

"Since 2002, the United States has spent at least \$7 billion on a wide variety of programs to reduce poppy cultivation, prevent narcotics production, treat drug addiction, and improve the criminal justice system to combat drug trafficking," according to his written testimony. "The United States has provided another \$3 billion for agriculture and stabilization programs, which under the current U.S. strategy are considered an important part of the counternarcotics effort."

Caucus chairwoman Sen. Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., said the Senate body has produced several

draft recommendations to combat the problem. Among them are increased international drug enforcement cooperation with countries that consume large amounts of Afghan opium, including Russia and Iran, and efforts to provide economic alternatives to poppy production for rural Afghans and greater support for Afghan government anti-drug enforcement.

The consequences of failure could be grim, Sopko told Congress. During his recent trips to Afghanistan, he said, residents have laid out two possible outcomes for the country after the U.S. and NATO withdraw combat troops: a successful modern state or an insurgent state.

He said that because of the growing drug trade "there is a third possibility: a narco-criminal state. Absent effective counternarcotics programs and Afghan political will to seriously tackle this grave problem, that third outcome may become a reality."

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# US planning drug intel center in Bahrain

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — As the United States shrinks its civilian presence in Afghanistan, limiting its ability to combat the country's booming drug industry, U.S. officials intend to establish an intelligence center in Bahrain to continue fighting the trade.

The center in the tiny Persian Gulf nation, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, will be an "integral part" of the Defense Department's post-2014 strategy in Afghanistan, Erin Logan, who oversees the Pentagon's counter-narcotics efforts, said Wednesday

afternoon.

"The center will help fill the gap where space for personnel on the ground in Afghanistan is no longer available," she told a Senate panel on narcotics control.

Lawmakers and the inspector general overseeing reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan said they were alarmed that a problem that Washington has spent billions of dollars trying to combat is likely to worsen and further destabilize Afghanistan at a critical time.

DEA agents hope to continue working with and supporting elite

Afghan police units that have carried out drug investigations in recent years, Capra said.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., chairman of the counter-narcotics panel, called Afghanistan's drug trade a problem with "no easy solution," adding that new approaches must be found. "We ignore it at our peril," she said.

Feinstein said Washington should attempt to collaborate on counternarcotics efforts with Iran, which shares a border with Afghanistan and is a leading destination and crossing point of the heroin trade.



## EUROPEAN TERRORISM

# Sochi was target of terrorism long before Olympics

Concerns fanned by latest incidents as start of Winter Games approaches

By JOSH SMITH  
Stars and Stripes

MOSCOW — The snow-covered train station appears peaceful, for just a moment, in a grim surveillance video. Then a sudden explosion smashes the station's windows and shatters that peace, along with the lives of dozens more civilians caught in the crossfire of Russia's long war against terrorism.

The deadly explosion Dec. 29 in the southern Russian city of Volgograd — made famous during World War II under its Soviet name of Stalingrad — was not the first, nor was it the last, deadly attack in the area.

That blast, set off by a suspected suicide bomber, was followed a day later by another alleged suicide attack on a trolleybus. Together, the two attacks left as many as 34 people dead and dozens wounded, sending the city into shock. Two months earlier, in October, a suicide bomber killed six people on a Volgograd bus.

No group took responsibility, but investigators said the bombers came from the troubled North Caucasus region.

With the start of the Winter Olympics in Sochi on Feb. 6, the latest strikes in Russia have been front-page news in the West and have fanned concerns that the Games could be a prime target of a terrorist attack.

While the level of media attention may be new, the threat certainly isn't. By one estimate, Russia has been the victim of nearly 2,000 terrorist attacks since 1992, the year after the Soviet Union collapsed. Volgograd is only the latest in a long list of cities to be targeted.

The messy wars against separatist Chechnya in the 1990s sparked a wave of terrorism, from bombings in southern Russia to hostage-takings in the heart of Moscow.

That experience in dealing with Islamic terrorism at home is shaping Moscow's policies regarding Syria, Iran and elsewhere in the Middle East and Asia — and may define Russia's relationship with the West for years to come.

## An epidemic

When Anatoly Ermolin left his job in 1996 as a lieutenant colonel in the KGB's elite special operations team, he thought his days in

the fight against terrorism were over. In his decade with the unit, he fought in the Soviet Union's dirty wars, from Azerbaijan to Afghanistan, hunting down people seen as threats to the crumbling communist empire. In the last years of his service, he led an anti-terrorism squad in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, two Russian republics that would soon become battlegrounds between government forces and militant groups.

After the Soviet Union ceased to exist in 1991, the KGB team was subordinated to Russia's domestic police service — a move seen as an attempt to strip it of its powers. Ermolin hung up his gun and got a job developing educational policies for a private school funded by Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the one-time oil tycoon who was recently released from prison. Ermolin's past in the dark world of Soviet special forces faded.

Ten years later, he found himself confronting domestic terrorism again. By then he was a member of Russia's State Duma,



**“Terrorism cannot be a local problem; it is not a problem for just one place. It’s not just a problem in Chechnya or Ingushetia, but for the whole world.”**

Alexander Khinshteyn  
vice chairman of the State Duma's security and anti-corruption committee



PHOTOS BY JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

Russian riot police observe a protest by Russian nationalist groups in Moscow in November. Economic and political problems continue to inflame ethnic tensions and exacerbate the threat of terrorism.

where he sat on the foreign affairs committee, observing some of the most devastating terrorist attacks in Russian history.

About that time, the response to Moscow's brutal campaign in the 1990s to pacify the breakaway republic of Chechnya was reaching the capital with a vengeance.

In late 2002, Chechen rebels held 700 people captive in a Moscow theater until security forces stormed in. Most of the 129 hostages who were killed died from the effects of gas used by police.

The year 2004 saw lethal assaults on the Moscow metro, government buildings and two passenger jets, which were blown up. The most deadly incident occurred at the end of the year, when Chechen rebels seized a school in Beslan, North Ossetia. More than 300 hostages — half of them children — died during the assault and the botched rescue.

Spurred by those attacks and the fallout, Ermolin wrote a letter to President Vladimir Putin, also a veteran of the KGB, explaining why he thought the country's counterterrorism policies had gone off the rails.

As a KGB officer he had used the very same kinds of ruthless tactics that Russia had recently employed in the North Caucasus, but he was now making the case that such methods were counterproductive.

“It was trying to explain the nature of terrorism in Russia, and the main idea was that we have a problem, we have an epidemic,” Ermolin told Stars and Stripes as he sipped tea in his Moscow office. Having left the Duma in 2007, he now works as a project director for the Committee of Civic Initiatives, an organization that tries to boost participation in public affairs.

“One of the most dangerous factors was the way we started to fight terrorism,” he said. “The

result is hundreds of people who will fight to the death.”

Putin's press office did not respond to a request for comment.

The incredible level of extremist violence in Russia is important in understanding the country's counterterrorism strategy, said Tom Nichols, a professor of National Security Affairs at the U.S. Naval War College.

“This has made the Russians — who already are used to a strong state security apparatus — far more willing to empower its internal security forces beyond anything Americans would ever allow,” he said. “While the Russian campaigns in Chechnya in the 1990s were brutal, I think this long ago mutated into a larger civilizational conflict. Terrorism is never justified.”

## Fertile ground

Though the North Caucasus have become synonymous in Russia with terrorism, some fear the same combination of economic and political problems that made Chechnya a magnet for religious extremists could make other regions of the country vulnerable to violence.

Kazan, the capital city of the Republic of Tatarstan, lies 650 miles up the Volga River from Volgograd, deep in the heart of Russia.

It is known for its ethnic and religious diversity. The population is split almost evenly between ethnic Russians and mostly Muslim Tatars, and the city's fortress is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that features a mosque and a Russian Orthodox cathedral.

Below the surface, however, there are signs of tension.

Local Russian nationalist groups protest over perceived Tatar dominance, and in the city's recently constructed subway, it's clear officials aren't

taking any chances. Commuters must have their bags scanned by security guards at every station — a precaution not taken even in Moscow's crowded transportation system.

The good news, said Mark Galeotti, a professor of global affairs at New York University, is that “the Wahhabi-Salafi-jihadist strain of Islam is pretty alien” to most of the Muslim traditions in Russia. “Although there is some risk of spread into Tatarstan, on the whole I wouldn't be too alarmist.”

The Council of Muftis of Russia, a leading Muslim organizing committee, condemned the latest Volgograd attacks and opened an account to raise funds for the victims.

“Islam condemns the killing of innocent people and has no relation to the terrible crimes committed by terrorists hiding behind our religion,” the council said in a statement on its website.

While the tensions in areas like Tatarstan have mostly been limited to long-standing political and economic rivalries between various ethnic and religious blocs, events in recent years have raised concerns that the issues could be co-opted by violent extremists.

In July 2012, the city was rattled by its first terrorist attack, which targeted two pro-Kremlin Muslim leaders who had condemned more radical members of the faith. A few months later, one police officer and three militants accused of involvement in the attacks were killed in a gunbattle in a Kazan apartment complex.

Last year, Russian prosecutors announced they were treating the burning of seven Orthodox Christian churches in the area as terrorism committed by unspecified extremists.

SEE SOCHI ON PAGE 5



# EUROPEAN TERRORISM

## Sochi: The Kremlin determined to make favorable impression in these Winter Games

### FROM PAGE 4

The fears aren't limited to Kazan. Analysts say economic and political malaise in much of Russia has led to simmering ethnic tensions, in some cases causing riots and other unrest. Russian nationalists, many of whom openly and proudly call themselves racist, rioted in Moscow last year during protests against ethnic minorities and migrants.

Concerns over terrorism have come to a head as Russia prepares to host the Winter Olympics next month. Sochi, the resort town in which the Games will be based, is just west of the northern Caucasus, on the Black Sea.

Moscow has a lot riding on the event. The Kremlin has invested billions in infrastructure, and it is determined to make a favorable impression. The humiliation of the 1980 Moscow Summer Games — boycotted by the U.S. and 61 other countries because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan — has not been forgotten.

Some of the security efforts leading up to the Sochi Games have raised eyebrows, however.

After the October bus attack in Volgograd, Russian officials are reported to be collecting DNA samples pre-emptively from religiously conservative Muslim women. A plan by security services to monitor the communications of everyone at the Games made headlines.

While analysts say Russian forces have become better at avoiding the mass casualties that marked counterterrorism efforts a decade ago, they say that Moscow has failed to address many of the root causes

of discontent.

Russia's crackdown in Chechnya "galvanized jihadism in the region," Galeotti said, but there are a range of economic and political issues that have allowed the area to become a fertile ground for extremists bringing a religious flavor to the unrest in the Caucasus and other regions of southern Russia.

"Heavy-handed security measures continue often to be counterproductive, but in many ways Moscow's main failure has been not to address the serious and genuine crises of unemployment, corruption and government illegitimacy in the North Caucasus," he said. "This is what actually provides the jihadist minority with wider legitimacy and popular support."

### 'Dry wood'

The uprisings across North Africa and the Middle East have been watched warily by Russian officials who fear that such revolutionary sentiments could exacerbate the already inflamed North Caucasus and even spread beyond, Ermolin said. Economic and political issues that have not been addressed make the areas potentially ripe for recruitment of fighters engaged in the war against the Moscow-backed Bashar Assad regime in Syria.

For Russian leaders, the calls by some Syrian rebels for the creation of a fundamentalist Islamic state in their homeland sound uncomfortably similar to the goals of Doku Umarov, the Chechen leader of the so-called Caucasus Emirate. The stated aim of Umarov's group, designated by Moscow and Washington as a terrorist or-

ganization, is to establish an Islamic state on Russian territory.

Chechen fighters like Omar Abu al-Chechen, who leads an expatriate jihadist force known as the Immigrant Brothers in Syria, have sparked fears that the extremists are seeking to make Syria into a base for future operations in Russia.

Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov talked of police measures to deal with that danger when he spoke to reporters in December.

"For Chechnya, this issue is particularly acute due to the fact that Syria has thousands of fighters who, according to Russian special services, are a serious and real threat for our country," said Kadyrov, a former rebel who has been criticized for his human rights record. "We cannot quietly listen to these threats and wait until this plague will move in the direction of Russia."

Referring to the threat posed by extremists, Ermolin said: "I think this is one of the most dangerous things for any government. They are very serious and believe they can organize an Islamic state. And this state would be mostly situated here, not in the United States. They consider it to be their territory."

"We are dry wood; it's very easy to set fire to the situation."

### Mutual interests

While the disastrous conflict in Syria has divided Russia and NATO-member countries that initially backed the rebel groups, the increasingly extremist nature of Syria's opposition could see a realignment of international interests.

"There is a fear of it spreading, especially after the fighting stops and militants return to the North Caucasus, perhaps with other jihadist allies, but honestly I think [Russia's] main fear is regional chaos that will empower Iran," said Galeotti.

The situation in the Caucasus captured American attention last year when the two brothers accused of bombing the Boston Marathon were identified as having been born to a family from that area.

Analysts contend that the broader counterterrorism effort is one in which Moscow and Washington could collaborate better. The problem, they say, is that other issues keep getting in the way.

"I have argued for many years that Russia and America have a natural interest in anti-terrorism cooperation, and I think it's unfortunate that so many other issues have interfered in an area where we have a clear coincidence of interests," Nichols said.

Galeotti agreed. "The trouble is that both Russia and the West tend also to try and turn the conflict to their own advantage," he said. "But on an operational level, there is definitely scope for much greater intelligence sharing."

The threats to Russia are not particularly different from those faced by the U.S., said Alexander Khinshtein, vice chairman of the State Duma's security and anti-corruption committee.

"Terrorism cannot be a local problem; it is not a problem for just one place," he said. "It's not just a problem in Chechnya or Ingushetia, but for the whole world."

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## MILITARY

# Contracting probe led to Navy official's ouster

By CRAIG WHITLOCK  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — An intensifying criminal investigation of a suspected contracting scheme involving a top-secret Navy project has resulted in the forced resignation of the service's second-ranking civilian leader, according to officials and court documents.

Robert Martingane, the acting undersecretary of the Navy, stepped down after his boss, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, asked for his resignation "following a loss of confidence in [his] abilities to effectively perform his duties," according to a statement the Navy released Wednesday.



Martingane

Navy officials said Martingane was pressured to quit after investigators looking into his role in the top-secret program discovered that he was having an affair.

Federal prosecutors testified last week in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., that Martingane is not a criminal target of their inquiry. But they said one of his subordinates has told them that Martingane gave approval for a

mysterious operation to acquire a large batch of firearm silencers intended for SEAL Team 6, the elite commando unit that killed Osama bin Laden.

In that case, three senior Navy intelligence officials who reported to Martingane are under investigation for a suspected contracting scheme that charged the military \$1.6 million for homemade silencers that cost only \$8,000 to manufacture, court records show.

The untraceable silencers were purchased from a hot-rod auto mechanic who is a brother of one of the Navy intelligence officials under scrutiny. The mechanic, Mark Landersman, of Temecula, Calif., has been charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and

to transport unregistered firearms. His attorneys have denied the charges.

Prosecutors said in court last week that the silencers were acquired for a "special access program," or a highly secretive military operation. One document filed in the case said the silencers were needed to support "the UP-STAIRS program," but does not give details.

Many aspects of the investigation have been kept under seal or described in closed court sessions. Some details emerged Friday in a rare hearing that was kept open to the public.

In that session, prosecutors said that Lee Hall, one of the three Navy intelligence officials

under investigation, recently told them that Martingane had given oral approval for the purchase of the silencers.

Prosecutors said they have interviewed Martingane but did not reveal his version of events. Martingane is not a target of the criminal investigation, said Morris Parker Jr., an assistant U.S. attorney and the lead prosecutor in the case.

Martingane, who has a background in special operations and intelligence, had been serving as acting undersecretary of the Navy since April. He also held the title of deputy undersecretary of the Navy for plans, policy, oversight and integration. Martingane did not return a phone message seeking comment.

## Report: Systemic failures led to Benghazi attacks

By KIMBERLY DOZIER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan Senate report on the attacks on the diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, paints a picture of systemic failure of security for U.S. diplomats overseas that led to the deaths of the ambassador and Libya and three other Americans.

The intelligence community didn't send enough warnings, the State Department didn't take

the warnings it did get seriously enough, and the military was caught flat-footed when called on to rescue those in need, according to a long-delayed Senate Intelligence Committee report released Wednesday.

U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, information technology specialist Sean Smith and CIA security contractor Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty died in the attacks that took place Sept. 11-12, 2012.

The report goes so far as to say the attacks could have been pre-

vented if the State Department had accepted security on offer from the military or had closed the Benghazi facility until it could have been better secured.

The report for the first time points specifically to Stevens for twice refusing to U.S. military's offer to keep a special operations team there that was providing extra security in the weeks before the attacks.

On the 11th anniversary of the 2001 terror attacks, armed militants stormed the diplomatic

outpost in Benghazi, setting the building on fire, and later attacked the CIA annex where the Americans had taken shelter.

The Obama administration first described the attacks as a spontaneous mob protest of an anti-Islamic, American-made video, like the one at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo earlier that day. Administration officials corrected their description days after the attacks, but by then the incident had become a hot political issue.

The report also takes the U.S.

intelligence community to task for not seeking out eyewitness reports after the attacks and not quickly correcting erroneous reports to administration officials that the attacks might have been sparked by the video.

The intelligence community later blamed the violence on militants.

The report says the subsequent investigation showed individuals from many al-Qaida-linked militant groups took part in the "opportunistic" attacks.

## Intelligence Committee Republicans slam Joint Chiefs chairman

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Republican members of the Senate Intelligence Committee singled out Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for exhibiting poor leadership and insufficient planning in their report on the September 2012 attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi.

The full committee on Wednesday released a declassified report on the attacks by al-Qaida-linked militants that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens.

"The tenure of ... General Martin Dempsey, has been marked by what we view as significant deficiencies in command," the report states in the addendum signed by Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss, Richard Burr, James Risch, Daniel Coats, Marco Rubio and Tom Coburn. "From Syria to Benghazi, there has been either a profound inability or clear unwillingness to identify and prevent problems before they arise. Given the known operating environment in Benghazi, much less North Africa, a strong military leader would have ensured there was a viable plan in place to rescue Americans should the need arise."

The harsh assessment of Dempsey divided the committee along partisan lines. Republican Sen. Susan Collins was the only

Republican on the committee who did not sign off on the addendum, and none of the committee Democrats took part in the attacks on the chairman.

In congressional hearings held in the wake of the Benghazi attack, Dempsey and other senior defense officials argued that a rescue operation was not feasible after the attacks began due to poor intelligence about the situation on the ground and a lack of sufficient quick-reaction military assets in the region that could have gotten to Benghazi in time to save those who died.

"General Dempsey's attempts to excuse inaction by claiming that forces were not deployed because they would not have gotten there in time does not pass the common sense test," the Republican committee members said. "No one knew when the attacks against our facilities in Benghazi would end, or how aggressive the attacks would be. That is the whole point of a pre-established emergency rescue plan — so that the length of the attack alone does not dictate the rescue or survival of Americans."

"General Dempsey should have ensured that plan was in place, but he failed to do so ...

"The fate of United States personnel serving in dangerous areas of the world should not rest on ad hoc rescue operations, no matter how heroic, simply because the

United States Government and its civilian and military leaders have failed in their collective responsibilities to provide security and potentially life-saving assistance."

The GOP also blames Dempsey for failing to inform U.S. Africa Command, which is responsible for operations in Libya, about the existence of the CIA Annex and intelligence personnel in Benghazi.

"We are puzzled as to how the military leadership expected to effectively respond and rescue Americans in the event of an emergency when it did not even know of the existence of one of the U.S. facilities," the senators said.

The Republicans on the committee placed the ultimate blame for the loss of American lives in Benghazi on Hillary Clinton, who was in charge of the State Department at the time.

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"The final responsibility for security at diplomatic facilities lies with the former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton," they said. "The Temporary Mission Facility in Benghazi did not meet the security standards set by the State Department ... At the end of the day, she was responsible for ensuring the safety of all Americans serving in our diplomatic facilities. Her failure to do so clearly made a difference in the lives of the four murdered Americans and their families."

Cmdr. Scott McInlay, a spokesman for the Joint Staff, issued the following statement to Stars and Stripes when asked to respond to the committee members' criticism of Dempsey:

"The Chairman has testified before Congress multiple times on the military response to the attacks in Benghazi that claimed

the lives of Ambassador Stevens, Tyrone Woods, Glen Doherty and Sean Smith. Our forces were ordered to respond upon notification of the attack. But the fact remains, as we have repeatedly indicated, that U.S. military forces could not have arrived in time to mount a rescue of those Americans who were killed and injured that night."

The full committee report offered a similar assessment.

"There were no U.S. military resources in position to intervene in short order in Benghazi to help defend the Temporary Mission Facility and its Annex on September 11 and 12, 2012," the report states. "The small number of U.S. military resources devoted to the vast and often ungoverned North African landscape makes it unlikely that DOD can respond in short periods to all potential cri-

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## MILITARY



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif., announced Thursday that he's retiring after 21 years.

# Armed services chairman won't seek re-election

By LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The next session of Congress will open with two new armed services committee chairmen and plenty of postwar problems to tackle.

On Thursday, House Armed Services Chairman Buck McKeon, R-Calif., announced he will not seek re-election next fall, ending his 20-year congressional career and opening up the coveted military committee leadership spot.

McKeon had served in that role for the last three years, and as the House education committee chairman for two years before that. Republican rules mandate six-year term limits for committee leadership positions, and he said stepping into a lesser role next session forced him to reassess another run for public office.

Last March, Senate Armed Services Chairman Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., announced his plans to retire at the end of 2014. He has led that committee since 2007, the longest run of any senator since Georgia Democrat Sam Nunn in the early 1990s.

Levin is 79, McKeon 75. Both are stepping away as the Pentagon winds down the war in Afghanistan and girds itself for ongoing funding fights with a Congress focused on deficit reduction.

McKeon wants to avoid being seen as a lame-duck chairman, announcing a defense spending efficiency review, plans for several member trips to Afghanistan and a goal of reforming the military's handling of sexual assault cases.

He gave a nod to one potential successor, committee vice chairman Mack Thornberry, R-Texas. The 18-year congressman was in the running for the chairmanship

when McKeon was selected, and has made public his desire to take over for McKeon.

"I expect (Thornberry) to run, and I expect him to win," McKeon said. "I think he'd make an excellent chairman."

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., is the presumptive replacement for Levin. The Senate Armed Services Committee has outlined similarly ambitious plans for its upcoming year, including a review of the recent military retirement cost-of-living cuts passed as part of a budget deal last month.

Among his accomplishments, McKeon highlighted last month's passage of the annual defense authorization bill. It's the 52nd consecutive year

Congress has passed that military legislation, a record unmatched by any other legislative priority and a point of pride among committee members.

In a statement, the House Armed Services Committee's ranking member, Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., praised McKeon for his bipartisan approach to issues and willingness to engage with political opponents.

"Buck set a tone on this committee that the rest of Congress should seek to emulate," he said.

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## Memorial set for helo crash victims

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — A memorial service will be held at RAF Lakenheath on Friday for four airmen who died in a helicopter crash earlier this month.

Capt. Christopher S. Stover, Capt. Sean M. Ruane, Tech. Sgt. Dale E. Mathews and Staff Sgt. Afton M. Ponce, all with the 56th Rescue Squadron, died when

their HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crashed near the town of Salthouse on Jan. 7.

The service, which is open to identification card holders and some invitees from the local community, will be at 1:56 p.m. in Hangar 7 at Lakenheath, according to posts on the base's Facebook page.

A spokesman for Lakenheath

said odd times for ceremonies often reflect the number of the unit involved.

A large turnout from Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall is expected, and attendees are asked to arrive early, according to a Facebook post.

An investigation into the crash is ongoing.

news@stripes.com

## Remains found on Japan base still unidentified

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Human remains found last month on Camp Foster appear to be those of an unidentified Japanese male, according to Okinawa prefecture police.

The decomposing body was discovered Dec. 18 in the Futenna family housing area, a section of Camp Foster with many vacant and deteriorating buildings that are to be returned to Okinawa for

redevelopment.

After an initial investigation, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service turned the case over to Japanese police, who have so far been unable to identify the man or his cause of death.

The body showed no obvious signs of violence or injury, police said. Investigators posted a notice in local newspapers requesting information on the man's identity but received no responses.

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## MILITARY

# Officer guilty of sex assault will remain in Army

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Lt. Col. Brian Lofton, an Army officer assigned to U.S. Special Operations Command Africa, was convicted Wednesday of sexually assaulting a woman at his home in late 2012, but the jury's sentence allowed the 18-year veteran to remain in the service.

At a court-martial in Stuttgart, Lofton was found guilty of violating Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in connection with a charge he held the woman down and forcibly kissed her breasts against her will.

The jury sentenced Lofton to a reprimand, a \$1,500 monthly pay forfeiture for one year and a two-month restriction that limits the officer's movements to his home and his duty station. It did not, sentence Lofton to dismissal from the service.

Lofton was acquitted of two other charges: that he digitally penetrated the woman and that he grabbed her buttocks.

Prosecutors argued that allowing a sex offender to remain in the service would send the wrong message to troops, especially female servicemembers, who would likely be alarmed to serve alongside a convicted sex offender.

"Show what military justice can deliver," Army Special Victims Prosecutor Capt. Meghan McEnerny said in her closing statement.

Under pending changes to the UCMJ, sexual offense convictions will automatically mandate dismissal from the service. That was one of the changes prompted by outrage over the case of Lt. Col. James Wilkerson, the former Aviano airman who was convicted of sexual assault and dismissed from the service, only to be reinstated by Lt. Gen. Craig Franklin, the Third Air Force commander. Franklin later announced this month he is retiring in light of the controversy surrounding that decision.

"I think the sentence — no jail, no dismissal — reflects the fact that what happened is out of character, and Lt. Col. Lofton is a good person," the prosecutor said. "I continue in his service," said Stephen Carpenter, Lofton's defense attorney.

What happens next, "is an open question," Carpenter said.

During Lofton's court-martial, the 29-year-old woman, a local civilian, testified that after meeting Lofton at a downtown club, she and the Army officer struck up a friendly relationship on Facebook. After a couple of weeks, the two had their first date, which involved an evening of drinks and conversation at Lofton's apartment.

After talking for several hours, Lofton, who had been drinking, was unable to drive the woman home. Lofton offered to either call a taxi or let her spend the night at his apartment. The woman testified she elected to spend the night.

In bed, Lofton began to force himself on her, pinning her down as he kissed and touched her body, the woman testified. Fearing that the assault was going to escalate into rape, the woman yelled that she was infected with HIV, which ended the assault, she said.

"This idea came in my mind and it saved my life," said the woman, speaking in English, who is not HIV-positive. "He didn't touch me anymore."

She then called German police, who soon arrived on the scene and took both the woman and Lofton in for questioning. The case was later handed over to U.S. authorities as is standard with U.S. servicemembers in Germany.

Lofton offered a different account of events, saying that he had engaged in consensual kissing and tickling. At some point, the woman "flipped" and went into a rant about "arrogant Americans" and sex-obsessed men, Lofton said. Lofton said he responded by telling her to get "the (expletive) out of my house."

According to Lofton, that somehow prompted the woman to declare she was HIV-positive.

"She was acting like a crazy person," Lofton said.

Lofton said that while he engaged in consensual kissing with the woman he never assaulted her or touched her breasts or genitalia. Lofton's testimony was contradicted by physical evidence, which matched his DNA to DNA found on the inside cups of the woman's bra.

When asked how it got there, Lofton failed to give an explanation.

In a statement before sentencing, Lofton apologized to the woman and also appealed to the jury that he be allowed to continue serving.

"I still love this Army and everything it stands for," Lofton said. "I just really still want to serve."

During the trial's sentencing phase, several officers who served as character witnesses for Lofton testified that they would be happy to serve with Lofton again despite his being convicted of a sexual offense.

The woman, whose family moved from Kosovo to Germany in the late 1990s, said testifying during the trial was like going through the assault a second time. "I told him to stop and he didn't stop," she told the jury.

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Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

## Rescue mission refueling

A crew aboard an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C., lands aboard the USS Ross, a 505-foot guided missile destroyer, Tuesday. The Jayhawk was responding to a disabled sailboat with four people aboard 300 miles east of Cape Henry, Va., and needed the Navy platform to refuel before and after the crew hoisted the people from the sailboat into the helicopter.

## 2 Afghan civilians killed in strike, further straining ties

By HEATH DRUZIN  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — A NATO airstrike aimed at insurgents killed at least two civilians, further straining relations between the U.S. and Afghanistan at a time when the two countries remain at odds over a security agreement that is key to keeping international troops in the country past the end of the year.

The strike occurred Wednesday during a joint NATO and Afghan operation in a Taliban-heavy district of Parwan province, roughly two hours north of Kabul, when coalition and Afghan special operations troops came under heavy fire and called for air support, according to a statement from the NATO-led Afghan Security Assistance Force.

The ISAF statement said Afghan commandos and their ISAF advisers came under fire from two compounds before they failed in the strike, which also killed 10

insurgents.

An ISAF servicemember was killed in the fighting. On Thursday, the Pentagon identified the victim as Sgt. Daniel T. Lee, 28, of Crossville, Tenn., saying he died from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with small-arms fire.

Parwan Deputy Governor Shah Wali Shahid said in a phone interview with Stars and Stripes that initial reports indicated seven civilians were killed, including several children in a village called Wazghar.

According to a report in The Washington Post, Afghan President Hamid Karzai said eight civilians were killed in the strike.

The incident happened in Ghorband district, an area that has been under intermittent Taliban control for about two years.

"ISAF regrets any civilian casualties and will continue working with our Afghan partners to determine all the facts surround-

ing this incident," the ISAF statement read.

Civilian casualties have long been a source of tension between Karzai and the U.S., and Karzai has demanded a stop to airstrikes in civilian areas.

Last week, U.S. marines accidentally killed a young boy in Helmand province, according to a Reuters report.

The latest incident comes amid a controversy over the planned release by Afghan authorities of more than 70 prisoners ISAF accuses of planning attacks against coalition and Afghan troops. Washington and Kabul are also still negotiating a bilateral security agreement that would pave the way for a residual international military force, likely to be between 10,000 and 15,000 troops, to stay in Afghanistan past Dec. 31 for a training and counterterrorism mission.

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## 1 killed in Army helo 'hard landing' in Ga.

SAVANNAH, Ga. — A U.S. military spokesman says one member of an elite Army helicopter unit was killed and two were injured when their aircraft slammed into the ground while trying to land at a Georgia air field.

Maj. Allen Hill said Thursday that the MH-60 Black Hawk was returning from a routine training flight to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah when it made a "hard landing" late Wednesday on or near the airstrip. The names of the dead and injured soldiers were not immediately released.

The crew belongs to the 160th

Special Operations Aviation Regiment, which trains to fly helicopters behind enemy lines under cover of darkness. Also called the Night Stalkers, the unit has a battalion based in Savannah.

On Jan. 8, a Navy helicopter crashed about 18 miles off Virginia Beach, killing three aboard.

From The Associated Press



## NATION

## Senate ready to send spending bill to Obama

By ALAN FRAM  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Drained of much of its vitriol over the budget, Congress is poised to adopt a \$1.1 trillion package financing federal agencies this year, a bipartisan compromise that all but banishes the specter of an election-year government shutdown.

The Democratic-controlled Senate planned to give final congressional approval to the immense spending measure, possibly as early as Thursday. The Republican-run House passed the package Wednesday in a lopsided 359-67 vote that underscored how both parties could claim wins in the measure — and how both saw deep perils in fighting over it.

"Not everyone will like everything in this bill," said Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Ky., the House Appropriations Committee chairman. Rogers and his Senate counterpart, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., were the chief authors. "That's the nature of compromise."

The legislation is a line-by-line follow-up to the budget compromise the two parties pushed through Congress in December that set overall spending limits for the next two years.

The bill lawmakers were considering this week finances federal agencies through September. With the November congressional elections coming just weeks later, Congress is all but sure to provide more money later to avoid an

## Highlights of the \$1.1 trillion in spending measure

■ **Overall.** For basic agency operations — excluding the costs of war and natural disasters — the \$1.1 trillion includes about \$30 billion less than Congress originally provided for last year. It is about \$20 billion more than was provided after automatic spending cuts called the sequester took effect for 2013. The total prevents \$45 billion in sequester cuts legally required for this year because of the failure of President Barack Obama and Congress to agree to previous budget savings.

■ **War and disasters.** Provides \$92 billion for U.S. military operations overseas this year — mostly in Afghanistan — and nearly \$7 billion for disasters. That's about \$1 billion less than last year for war and \$44 billion less for disasters, when Hurricane Sandy drove up that price tag.

■ **Defense.** Provides \$487 billion, excluding war costs. Includes money for 1 percent pay raise requested by Obama. Cuts operation and maintenance to \$160 billion, \$14 billion below last year's enacted level. Cuts equipment procurement and research and development programs. Provides requested \$157 million for Sexual Assault and Prevention Office.

■ **Military retirees.** Exempts wounded military personnel who retire early, and their surviving spouses, from cuts in the annual inflation increases to their benefits.

■ **Health care law.** Funded at lower levels than the administration wanted, including retaining last year's \$3.7 billion for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which oversees the program. Cuts \$1 billion from Prevention and Public Health Fund.

■ **Health research.** \$29.9 billion for the National Institutes of Health, \$1 billion more than the final amount provided for last year.

■ **Guantanamo.** Prohibits transferring detainees from

the American naval prison in Cuba to the United States.

■ **Transportation.** No money for high-speed rail, an Obama-backed initiative. The Federal Aviation Administration's \$12.4 billion budget is nearly \$200 million below last year.

■ **Domestic security.** Holds Transportation Security Administration budget to \$4.9 billion, more than \$200 million below last year. Limits that agency to having 46,000 full-time screeners. Slight increases for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

■ **Internal Revenue Service.** Reduces its budget to \$11.3 billion, \$500 million below last year's level. Provides none of the \$440 million Obama wanted to help the agency enforce the health care law.

■ **Financial agencies.** Nearly \$1.4 billion for the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is \$324 million below Obama's request. Small Business Administration budget also reduced.

■ **Veterans.** Extra money for technology upgrades, overtime and other spending to reduce the nearly 400,000 claims for disability benefits that have been pending for longer than 125 days.

■ **Diplomacy and foreign aid.** Provides \$25 million over Obama's \$5.4 billion request for security at diplomatic facilities overseas. Includes \$3.1 billion in aid for Israel. Links aid to Egypt to that country retaining its security relationship with the U.S. and continuing to abide by its peace accord with Israel. Cuts assistance to Afghanistan to \$1.1 billion. Bars the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and Export-Import Bank from halting work on overseas power plants, a provision aimed at protecting U.S. exports and jobs.

— The Associated Press

election-eve budget clash.

The legislation increases agency budgets by \$26 billion over last year's total. It still leaves them

\$31 billion below where last year's spending would have been if not for sequestration — budgetwide cuts triggered after lawmakers

failed to agree to deficit-cutting savings.

The measure let Republicans claim they have now restrained

agency spending for four straight years. They won cuts to the Internal Revenue Service and Transportation Security Administration and foreign aid, restricted spending to implement health care and financial regulation overhauls and won renewal of provisions limiting federal assistance for abortions.

"Today the House came together to keep the government open while further reining in its out-of-control spending," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said.

Democrats touted extra spending for Head Start preschool programs, food aid for poor pregnant women and biomedical research, and there was more money for the FBI, NASA and the border patrol as well.

Democrats claimed victories in protecting a requirement that some gun dealers report sales to the same buyer of multiple firearms and in blocking a GOP effort to curb federal regulation of utilities' greenhouse gas emissions.

In the House, 64 of the 67 "no" votes came from Republicans, including many of the chamber's most conservative members.

Among them was Rep. Paul Labrador, R-Idaho, who complained that the measure represented "Washington at its worst — a 1,582-page bill stuffed with pork, ineffective programs and giveaways, being rushed through Congress without proper review."

## Cybersecurity chief had qualms over health site

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top cybersecurity officer for the Health and Human Services Department said he was concerned about potential vulnerabilities ahead of the launch of the health care website.

Kevin Charest told congressional investigators he was unable to get answers to his questions from others inside the department. He concluded that the testing of the site was substandard.

"I would say that it didn't follow best practices," Charest testified in a Jan. 8 deposition. Excerpts of his testimony were provided to The Associated Press by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Charest and Teresa Fryer — another government cybersecurity professional who also had qualms — were to testify before the panel Thursday.

Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., investigating the rollout of the HealthCare.gov web site, contends the administration risked the personal information of millions of Americans in its zeal to meet a self-imposed Oct. 1 deadline. The online federal insurance market is the main portal to cov-

erage under the program.

The panel's senior Democrat, Rep. Elijah Cummings, of Maryland, said the administration addressed the potential security issues through added vigilance instituted before the site went live. He said despite initial operational problems, the site has not been successfully hacked.

Cummings said it is Republicans who are risking the privacy of average citizens by demanding detailed blueprints that, if leaked, would become a road map for hackers.

With health care expected to be a polarizing issue in the midterm congressional elections, both political parties are at battle stations. Republicans have raised security issues but have yet to produce a smoking gun.

As chief information security officer for HHS, Charest offered a look at insider concerns during the weeks and days before the website went live. Technical problems developed immediately and many potential customers were frozen out.

The site seems to be working well now, but the signup campaign hasn't fully recovered its momentum.

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## NATION

## Global use of cigarettes, number of smokers up

By SANDI DOUGHTON  
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Fifty years after the U.S. surgeon general first warned of the health effects of smoking, a new analysis from the University of Washington shows that the number of smokers worldwide — and the number of cigarettes consumed — has never been higher.

Between 1980 and 2012, the number of adults who smoke increased from 721 million to nearly 1 billion, reports the study published Tuesday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The number of cigarettes smoked globally jumped from about 5 trillion to 6.25 trillion.

The study, which is one of the

most comprehensive ever to examine global tobacco use, shows that the remarkable reductions in smoking rates in the United States and other wealthy countries have been offset by a growing epidemic in the developing world.

"The University of Washington study demonstrated clearly how much [farther] the world, particularly low- and middle-income countries, still has to go," said Matthew Myers, president of the Washington-based Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

The rise in the number of smokers reflects both population growth — particularly in nations such as China and Indonesia — and the tobacco industry's heavy marketing in poorer nations, experts say.

## Boy dies of drinking meth at Mexico border crossing

By ELLIOT SPAGAT  
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Mexican high school student died from drinking highly concentrated liquid methamphetamine at a San Diego border crossing in an attempt to persuade inspectors that it was only apple juice, according to an autopsy report.

Cruz Marcelino Velazquez, 16, volunteered to take "a big sip" at the San Ysidro port of entry Nov. 18, said the report, which was released Wednesday. He was then handcuffed and taken to a security office, where he began screaming in pain, said something about "the chemicals," and shouted, "My heart! My heart!" in Spanish, it added.

The San Diego County Medical Examiner's report gives no indication that inspectors asked him to drink the liquid and doesn't say whether they had an opportunity to stop him when he volunteered. Velazquez died hours later at a hospital from acute methamphetamine intoxication.

Jackie Wasilik, a spokeswoman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the agency that oversees ports of entry, had no immediate comment on the findings.

San Ysidro, the nation's busiest border crossing, has emerged as a major corridor for smuggling methamphetamine. To avoid detection, crystal methamphetamine is dissolved in water and disguised in bottles. It is later converted back to crystals.

## Airliner crash rescuer saw girl before she was struck

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Video from the helmet camera of a firefighter responding to the crash landing of an Asiana Airlines flight in San Francisco shows at least one rescuer was aware someone was on the ground outside the aircraft and even warned a colleague. Yet two firefighters subsequently ran over an injured passenger.

The video, first aired by CBS News on Tuesday, shows the girl, Ye Meng Yuan, 16, lying in the grass before she was struck, according to an attorney for her fam-

ily. A coroner concluded she was alive at the time and died when she later was hit by a firetruck.

In the video, a firefighter with a helmet camera tells the driver of a firetruck that there's a person in front of him. A firetruck-mounted camera shows a firefighter directing the truck away from the person.

What's not clear from the video is why rescuers didn't try to move or clearly mark the presence of the person on the ground during the chaotic aftermath of the July 6 crash at San Francisco International Airport.



ROBERTO ROSALES, THE ALBUQUERQUE (N.M.) JOURNAL/AP

John Masterson and his wife, Lea, speak outside their door. Masterson is the teacher who confronted a shooter and took his shotgun away at a middle school Tuesday morning.

## Detectives seek answers in NM school shooting

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS  
AND SUSAN MONTVOYA BRYAN  
The Associated Press

ROSOWELL, N.M. — Investigators have turned up evidence that the 12-year-old boy who opened fire on a crowd of students in a New Mexico middle school gym had planned the attack and warned some classmates to stay away moments before the gunfire rang out.

Dozens of students and teachers at Berrendo Middle School have been interviewed during the past two days and search warrants have been served, leading to some key details. Still, investigators have yet to speculate about a motive, and teachers and students were bracing for a tough road ahead as classes resumed Thursday and the search for more answers continues.

At a news conference Wednesday, State Police Chief Pete Kasstas said it appeared the victims of Tuesday's shooting — an 11-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl — were chosen randomly.

The shotgun used by the suspected shooter came from his family's home, and he had three rounds of ammunition, Kasstas said.

"All three rounds were expended during the incident," the police chief said. "There was no indication that he had any ammu-

nition other than what was loaded in the gun."

The 11-year-old boy who was shot in the face and neck remained in critical condition at University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas. The 13-year-old girl, identified as Kendal Sanders, was in satisfactory condition with injuries to the right shoulder. The family of the injured boy has asked that his name be withheld while he recovers.

The suspected shooter's family issued a statement saying they were heartbroken and that their remorse could not be put into words. They said the two children who were injured have been in their thoughts and prayers.

"We are horribly sad over this tragedy on so many levels," the family stated. "We are praying that God will be with everyone who has been affected."

The family added it will cooperate with law enforcement to "piece together how this awful tragedy occurred."

Police have not released the boy's name, and The Associated Press typically doesn't identify juveniles charged with crimes.

Police didn't say when charges would be filed, only that they were working with the district attorney's office. Kasstas described the case as complex.

He said investigators worked through the night exercising

search warrants at the school, and determined through those searches that the attack was planned. They examined the boy's locker and the duffel bag the seventh-grader is suspected of using to transport the .20-gauge shotgun to school.

Kasstas said the handle of the gun was sawed off so it had "more of a pistol grip."

He added that authorities had some indication the boy verbally warned "select students" about the attack as he arrived at the school. Kasstas didn't elaborate.

The shooting spurred a flood of 911 calls from students Tuesday morning. In some, screaming could be heard in the background.

The shooting was over in 10 seconds, officials said, after the boy fired at the ceiling, the floor and then the students. An eighth-grade social studies teacher, John Masterson, then stepped in and talked the boy into dropping his weapon.

Masterson and other teachers were lauded for taking quick action that authorities said would've saved lives had the boy had more ammunition, or had there been another gunman.

Chaves County Sheriff Rob Coon said all the schools in the county, public and private, undergo regular training for dealing with "active shooters."

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## NATION

## Appeal in ruins

# Detroit's abandoned buildings draw tourists, not developers

By ALANA SEMUELS  
Los Angeles Times

DETROIT — He'd heard stories of ruin and blight, but that didn't prepare Oliver Kearney for what he saw:

Prostitutes roaming the streets at 8 a.m.; rubble-strewn parking lots overrun with weeds; buildings taken over by bright, pink graffiti; the message scrawled on blackboards in deserted schools: "I will not write in vacant buildings."

He took 2,000 photographs his first day.

"No other American city has seen decline on this scale," Kearney said. "It's really a once-in-a-lifetime thing you're going to see."

And he saw it all on a tour.

Kearney, 18, an aspiring architect, persuaded his father to travel with him from Britain to Detroit to participate in one of the city's few burgeoning industries: tours of abandoned factories, churches and schools.

Led by tour guide Jesse Welter, they crawled on their hands and knees to peek inside a train station closed long ago; they squeezed through a gap in a fence to climb the stairs of what was once a luxury high-rise; they ducked under crumbling doorways to see a forgotten ballroom where "The Who held its first U.S. concert."

"In Detroit, you can relate, you can see traces of what's happened, you can really feel the history of a city," Kearney said. "In Europe, when things become derelict, they'll demolish them."

That's not possible here. The city estimates it has 78,000 vacant structures, and demolishing each derelict residential building costs \$8,000 — money the bankrupt city can't afford.

The city says that 85 percent of its 142.9 square miles "experienced population decline" during the past decade, and efforts to persuade investors to buy commercial buildings to rehabilitate them have been mixed, at best. For example, plans to turn the Michigan Central Depot, a one-car-long train station, into a casino and then into police headquarters have gone nowhere, and it's stood empty since 1988.

Photographers have flocked to the city to capture the decline. Two French photographers even produced a book, "The Ruins of Detroit." Since the city declared bankruptcy in July, hotels say they've seen an uptick in visitors inquiring about the ruins. So have restaurants in the up-and-coming district of Corktown, near the abandoned train station.

Welter, 42, said he had to buy a 12-seat van to accommodate the growing interest.

Welter guided his first tour in late 2011, but the business has

**'No other American city has seen decline on this scale.'**

**Oliver Kearney**

aspiring architect who took a tour of abandoned buildings in Detroit

really picked up this year. His clients pay \$45 for a three-hour tour and explore some of Detroit's most famously blighted structures: the Packard Automotive Plant, the train station and the East Grand Boulevard Methodist Church, which features peeling paint and vast balconies.

Welter, who is bearded and slim, knows how to sneak into buildings closed to the public. He knows which neighborhoods are plagued by packs of feral dogs, and which ramshackle building contains a recording studio with equipment still set up as if its occupants just left for lunch. He knows the churches so well that he helped a young couple find an abandoned one in which to conduct their wedding.

It's not legal, per se, to enter those buildings. Police will give \$225 tickets for trespassing if people enter schools, Welter said, but have otherwise told him they don't mind his going into other buildings.

On a recent weekday morning, he brought a visitor to one of his favorite spots, St. Agnes Catholic Church, a rotting structure where graffiti vandals have made their mark. A beam of sunlight shone through the windows, falling on the one remaining pew in the church, a haunting image that illuminated the church's destruction. Then Welter heard a motor idling outside and quickly ushered his guest toward the exit.

"Someone's pulling up out there; let's start walking this way," he said, moving toward the crumbling staircase that leads to the church's courtyard, which was littered with soda cans and food wrappers.

He's not afraid of the authorities — they're in short supply in this cash-strapped city — but of scavengers, vagrants and others who might take advantage of someone with an expensive camera. That's why he usually launches his tours at 7 a.m., the best time to avoid other humans, he said.

Next, he headed into a girls' school attached to the church, climbing the stairs to a hall of classrooms where rubble was everywhere, as if a bomb had gone off. Some books and magazines dated to 1962 and told outdated stories of boys living on the prairie. A bird's nest sat in one of the



ANTONIO PEREZ, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

The Packard Automotive Plant, a former automobile manufacturing factory now in ruins in Detroit, is shown on Sept. 18. The city's decline has given rise to tourists who now always sit well with residents.

large windows where a pane used to be.

Locals use a derogatory term, "ruin porn," to describe the phenomenon of people gawking at the decay. They want visitors to see the positive parts of Detroit, such as the vacant fields that enterprising farmers have turned into urban gardens. If tourists are going to look at the ruins, they should then volunteer in the community, many Detroiters say.

"The decay is not cool, not arty-farty," Jean Vorkamp, a community activist and onetime mayoral candidate, said in an email. "I see the lady with bags and three layers of clothes on, and then I see a group of white young people climb out of their dad's cars with cameras that are worth so much."

Some Detroiters, including a group of urban explorers, have a beef with Welter in particular. They scrawled a message on the

walls of the St. Agnes Church, "Go Home Jesse. We HATE you and your tour bus."

Welter said he's opening visitors' eyes to the problems of Detroit, which potentially could drum up political will to help the city.

"People are going to do this anyway," he said. "Why not do it in a way that's going to be safer, easier for everyone?"

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## NATION



# Disappearing sand

Above: "We will endure" is scrawled on the wall of a house damaged by severe beach erosion in the Rocky Point neighborhood of Oahu's North Shore in Haleiwa, Hawaii. Right: Sandbags are piled in front of properties on the beach.

PHOTOS BY AUDREY McAVOY/AP

## Hawaii coastal homes threatened as beaches erode

By AUDREY McAVOY  
The Associated Press

**A**lice Lunt didn't worry too much when she saw waves splashing close to her home on Oahu's North Shore on Christmas Eve. She had seen the ocean edge close before. Before dawn, a neighbor woke her with a call.

"Everything was washing away," she remembered the neighbor saying.

The water claimed Lunt's deck that day and washed away a concrete slab the next night — part of a fast-moving collapse of the shore that also ripped out a neighbor's backyard and forced another to cut away rooms to save the rest of their house.

The Christmas swell damaged at least five oceanfront properties in the neighborhood, rekindling a decades-old debate about how best the state and homeowners should respond to beach erosion and the increasingly rising waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Some property owners want to be able to install a seawall or something similar to protect their property. Doing so, scientists say, could lead the sand on the nearby coastline — including Sunset Beach, home to some of the world's top surfing contests — to disappear.

"Do you build a seawall and potentially condemn the beach to extinction in front of the seawall but at the same time buy a lot of time for homeowners on the nearby land to figure out how to move away from that situation?" asked Chip Fletcher, a University of

Hawaii coastal geologist.

"Or do you not build a seawall, condemning the homes and the developed land to extinction, but allow the beach to survive?"

Fletcher said building seawalls always comes to mind wherever severe erosion occurs. He said studies show seawalls built on chronically eroding shorelines like Sunset Beach will lead only to more erosion down the coast.

Fletcher noted that other Oahu communities have already lost large chunks of beach because of seawalls.

These are stark options for Sunset Beach, where multimillion-dollar homes line the shore and where the globe's top surfers converge each year for the World Cup of Surfing.

Property owners wanting to build a seawall would need to draft an environmental study and get a state permit, a process that could take months.

In the short term, they may receive emergency authorization to place sandbags and tarp in front of their properties to deflect the waves, said Sam Lemmo, the coastal lands office administrator.

Krystle Dombrowski — whose family owns two houses next to Lunt's that they rent to vacationers — her husband, Kenneth, some friends and volunteers ran out of burlap sacks so they bought all the pillowcases at Wal-Mart and made bright-orange, red and polka dot sandbags.

Large surf that regularly hits the North Shore each winter brought the Christmas swell, not a freak storm.



Lunt said the beach fronting her home was particularly narrow because swells from the north that usually deposit sand during the summer weren't as frequent, and westerly swells had taken away sand instead. West and northwest swells have continued to carry away sand this winter, she said.

More fundamental factors are also at play. One is that sea levels have been rising for years, pushing the ocean inland. Another is that the Sunset coastline is chronically eroding, just like 70 percent of the beaches on Oahu, Maui and Kauai islands.

In the long term, both Lemmo and Fletcher believe government agencies should encourage people to move away from the coast to eliminate the question of whether seawalls should be built.

"We need to accommodate the erosion, allow it to occur, and we need to move away from it so it doesn't affect our lives," Lemmo said.

One option would be for a land conserva-

tion fund to buy properties along key shorelines and turn those areas into public parks, Fletcher said.

In Hawaii, the counties decide how far back from the coast dwellings may be built. On Oahu, people may only build homes 40 feet from the shoreline. Kauai and Maui counties, however, have adopted tighter rules in recognition of the erosion creeping up on their coastlines.

Even that may not be far enough, Fletcher said, noting those setbacks still allow buildings right on the sand dunes. Construction may need to be 150 feet from the shoreline to get away from the dunes, he said.

Rocky Point homes, like many of Hawaii's coastal homes, were built on dunes that would now be feeding the beach with sand if they didn't have structures on them.

"The event on the North Shore is a warning for all of us in Hawaii that these sorts of occurrences are part of our future," Fletcher said.



## NATION

## Driver 'saw history change all the time'

## Long-serving CIA worker's road ends with stories to tell

BY IAN SHAPIRA  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The way Mr. Thornton tells the story, it was shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, and he suddenly needed to drive the CIA's No. 3 official to a secret location three hours away in Virginia. His boss, A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard, was running late, so Mr. Thornton — a fedora-wearing septuagenarian who everyone, even agency directors, called by that honorific — would need to use his lead foot.

"It was at one of these under-cover places, and we were doing 80 mph. One time, I hit 100. But I got Buzzy there 15 minutes before the meeting," said Mr. Thornton, 79, who insists he cannot remember much else about the drive and why the meeting was so urgent. "All I knew about it was that it was a secret place," he said. "That's all I can say."

Mr. Thornton never ran spies. (So he says.) He never interrogated a terrorist suspect. But in his nearly 45 years at the CIA — a tenure that ended Dec. 20 when he retired — the Prince George's County, Md., man worked as an agency driver and became a fixture at the CIA's headquarters in Langley, Va. In his first two-plus decades, he operated agency shuttle buses, picking up CIA employees around Washington and dropping them off at government facilities. In the last 17 years or so, he chauffeured the agency's executive director — "ExDir," in agency parlance — as well as other agency officers.

Up until late December, Mr. Thornton occupied an unsung role in the national security establishment. Mr. Thornton was an unarmed CIA driver with top-secret security clearance who every day happened to hold in his hands the lives of elite spymasters — his "principals," as he dutifully calls them.

What did Mr. Thornton overhear in all those trips with the CIA's senior executives?

"You learn not to be too curious," he said, with a slight grin.

"I saw history change all the time, directors and executive directors come in and leave. I was there when things happened," he said. "But you couldn't go up and down the street saying you were there. I know it. The people I was hauling know it."

At Langley, Mr. Thornton walked the agency's seventh floor of senior executives, popping into offices, clad in Burberry or Joseph Abboud suits and red or brown bowlers or fedoras. On



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY/The Washington Post

Mr. Thornton, 79, drives in December during his next-to-last day of work for the Central Intelligence Agency.



At a CIA holiday reception in December 2013, Thornton stands between agency director John Brennan and deputy director Avril Haines. Thornton retired this month after almost 45 years of driving for the CIA.

his breaks, he routinely could be found at one of the back tables at the agency's Starbucks, chatting with fellow drivers. (Yes, the CIA has, among other chain eateries, a Starbucks, replete with Aimee Mann music and highly vetted baristas.) Those who didn't know him by name simply called him "The Hat Man."

In his nearly half-century at the CIA, Mr. Thornton witnessed his employer generate headlines frequently. Some of the people responsible for those headlines were the very people he was driving around.

Some of the stories hit close: One of his former principals, Kyle "Dusty" Foggo, pleaded guilty in

immigrant shot and killed two agency employees at a red light outside the headquarters. "I had stopped at a McDonald's and was on the way back to headquarters. I was in the fourth car behind the guys that got shot," Mr. Thornton said. "The shooter came down the line and was shooting at people. And then he jumped in a car, and they didn't know where he went. I was scared."

Other memories are more comical. Once, Mr. Thornton recalled, he had to pick up Krongard at a government facility somewhere in northern Virginia, and suddenly, George Tenet, then the agency's director, hopped into the back of his car, ditching his armed security.

"Tenet just said something like, 'Let's go! Put the pedal to the metal!'" Mr. Thornton said, laughing.

If Mr. Thornton overheard anything juicy from his principals, the talk likely centered on who was getting which job. "There could be discussion that you were going to promote Joe to John's job," Krongard said. "In the agency, that's worth its weight in gold, rather than whether we're going to run a coup in some country, because that's business as usual and won't affect anyone."

The drivers, after all, undergo polygraphs, which Mr. Thornton rarely minded. "They strap you in and put all this junk on you," he said, with a chuckle. "They ride on you, like 'What'd you hear in the car?' and 'Have you been overseas?' But I really can't discuss what they ask you."

Mr. Thornton grew up in Leesburg, Va., as one of 16 children, the son of a domestic worker and a farmer. He and his twin sister were the first in their family to earn high school diplomas, graduating in the early 1950s from the all-black Douglass High School in Leesburg. His first job: working as a janitor at Melpar, an engineering government contractor.

Then he got hired as a messenger at the Institute for Defense Analyses, a nonprofit corporation that operates federally funded research centers for the government. In that job, he often traveled to the CIA to pick up library books, he said. On one of his CIA trips, he learned the agency was hiring drivers, for better pay. He applied and got the job.

On June 8, 1969, when Richard Helms was director, Mr. Thornton began his CIA marathon and would become one of the longest-serving employees at the agency.

Now, Mr. Thornton is spending more time with his second wife, Dianne Thornton, a retired Montgomery County, Md., school principal. No more 3:30 a.m. wake-up times. No more 5 a.m. arrival times. No more 12- or 13-hour days. No more being on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Now it's time for vacations in Florida or overseas. To this day, Dianne doesn't question what her husband did exactly for CIA. Was he more than a just driver — perhaps a covert operative? At that question, his wife uttered a word not even people at the agency use. "That," she said, "is not my Bernard."



## FAITH



MARCUS YAM, SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

Greg and Renee Wood turned their ministry, Word of Life, over to their son as Greg is battling colon cancer and Renee is battling breast cancer. They were able to meet financial needs with help from Hopelink.

## When hard times hit, Greg and Renee Wood came on the receiving end of helping others

By SANDI DOUGHTON  
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Throughout their married life, Greg and Renee Wood have always been the ones who take care of other people.

As Christian pastors for nearly 20 years, they tended to the spiritual — and temporal — needs of their congregation.

As parents, they raised six children of their own while also taking in dozens of abused youngsters.

As active members of their community, they organized a program to provide backpacks filled with school supplies for students in need.

When the Woods found themselves sick, unemployed and on the brink of being evicted from their home earlier this year, asking for help didn't come easily to them.

After all, they had coped with misfortune before.

Two years after their eldest son died from a seizure in 2004, Renee was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her first rounds of treatment went well, though, knocking the disease into remission.

Even after the cancer came back with a vengeance and Renee was forced to stop working, she and Greg were able to keep their heads above water.

When Greg was diagnosed with ad-

vanced colon cancer in June, their financial safety net evaporated.

With the main breadwinner too weak to work — and uninsured — the family fell behind on rent and utilities and even had a hard time buying groceries.

"It felt like we'd been hit with bombs — one after the other," Renee said.

Then a friend told her about Hopelink. With centers across North and East King County, Wash., the organization provides a range of services aimed mostly at helping people cope with crises and get back on their feet. Like many of the 60,000 people Hopelink serves each year, Renee's first contact came through one of the group's five food banks.

There, she discovered that Hopelink also provides emergency assistance to keep people from being evicted.

"They paid our utilities. They helped pay our rent," Renee said. "They were the answer to a prayer."

Founded in 1971 by laid-off Boeing workers who banded together to help each other find jobs, Hopelink continues that mission with programs to help people improve their resumes and job-hunting skills. The nonprofit provides transportation services along with temporary housing, adult education and advice on money management.

"We're trying to help people get back to

self-sufficiency," said spokeswoman Kris Bether.

For Greg and Renee Wood, rent assistance helped solve their most pressing financial need. Ongoing visits to the food bank keep groceries in the fridge while both husband and wife undergo physically draining chemotherapy.

"This is a difficult time for them," said Kay Hockeiser, an emergency services specialist at Hopelink's Kirkland, Wash., center. "They have been hardworking all their lives, and they really do want to work, but because of these unfortunate events they

can't."

It's particularly tough on Greg. "As head of the household all those years, I feel like I'm supposed to be taking care of everyone else," he said on a recent Sunday, as family and friends gathered at his home for a Bible discussion.

Greg, 60, and Renee, 58, passed the leadership of their Lynnwood, Wash., ministry, Word of Life, to their son, Sheldon, a couple

of years ago. Making a living as a pastor is rarely a lucrative business, said Greg.

After he gave up church work, he took a job at U-Haul, and was two months away from being eligible for health insurance when he received his cancer diagnosis.

Though both he and Renee eventually qualified for coverage through Medicaid, they still owe thousands of dollars for medical expenses.

They refuse to let their financial and health woes take over their lives.

"I'm very optimistic," said Renee. "I feel like this is just another part of our journey that we're going to grow and learn from."

Last fall, Renee, Greg and several family members set up housekeeping together in Snohomish. Their children pay the bills and assist their parents with their medical regimens.

"I feel so loved and protected," Renee said. "We've always been a very close family."

But she and Greg also fret about imposing on their children. "I'm used to saying to them, 'What do you need?'" Renee said.

Greg and Renee both hope they'll be able to work again soon.

That would be the best possible outcome, Hockeiser said. "We want people to be stable in the future, and, hopefully, not need our services," she said.

**'I feel like this is just another part of our journey that we're going to grow and learn from.'**

Renee Wood



## NATION

# 'I have anxiety if I don't have it on'

## More police now sporting cameras on their bodies

By JESSICA ANDERSON  
The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — Officer Aaron Waddell pulled over a gray Dodge Caravan on Route 198 in Laurel, Md., and asked the driver for his license and registration. Waddell told the man why he stopped him — a suspected seat belt violation — and added, "Just to let you know, you're being recorded."

Such warnings could become more common as police across Maryland consider following Laurel's lead and equipping officers with small video cameras to record public interactions — part of an effort to limit complaints. Even the most mundane traffic stop can devolve into a dispute, and supporters say a recording can guard all sides from unfounded allegations.

But the new technology — now under consideration by the Baltimore Police Department and the Maryland State Police — also has proved difficult to reconcile with concerns about privacy and consent.

Even civil-rights advocates agree that video cameras can improve accountability, the American Civil Liberties Union cautioned recently that without proper oversight they could become "yet another system for routine surveillance." And some officers question whether the cameras will sour relations with the public.

In Laurel, where police began rolling out cameras last year at a cost of \$2,000 apiece, some in the department initially were reluctant to submit to the near-constant recording. Now, though, Waddell can't imagine working without his camera, a pen-size device worn on sunglasses or a headband.

"I have anxiety if I don't



PHOTOS BY DOUG KAPUSTIN, BALTIMORE SUN/MCT

Pfc. Aaron Waddell of the Laurel Police Department in Laurel, Md., wears a camera mounted to his sunglasses to monitor his interactions with the public.

have it on," said the patrolman, who pulled over 1,000 people in 2012. "Just by the amount of contact I have with people, I get complaints."

Everything went smoothly in the Route 198 stop. The driver politely accepted a citation and buckled up; Waddell switched off the device and moved along.

Recent cases in Baltimore have demonstrated how initial witness accounts can differ widely from official explanations. When Tyrone West died in police custody last summer, several witnesses said he had been beaten. Officers were cleared of wrongdoing, though his family continues to question the finding.

The advent of the cameras is the latest move in a long struggle by police to adapt to technology that

has put a recording device in the hands of everyone who carries a cellphone. Officers are under increased scrutiny because every public action can be captured and posted online in moments.

Often, police complain that videos shot by bystanders fail to capture an entire event. With the cameras, police aim to be protector and enforcer, arguing that the footage could help keep them accountable, provide evidence of crimes and resolve disputes over conduct.

But it also means the government is collecting more information, which raises questions about the data's distribution, retention and storage.

"This is something departments are trying to get their hands around," said Chuck Wex-

ler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, a policy think tank working for the U.S. Department of Justice to develop guidelines for the use of police cameras. "Police encounter citizens when they are at their worst. There are all sorts of privacy issues raised."

But police officials considering the technology believe it enhances credibility of officers at a time when they are already being recorded.

Baltimore police Commissioner Anthony W. Batts has indicated that he wants to see officers outfitted with the body-worn cameras. A recently released strategic plan calls for a look at whether cameras could help save money paid out from lawsuits.

A similar study done when



The Laurel Police Department's use of video cameras is part of an effort to limit complaints.

Batts headed the Oakland, Calif., Police Department called for a "well-thought out policy that protects officers' and citizens' constitutional rights and privacy." The department acquired hundreds of cameras in 2010, and officers were directed to have them on for many public interactions.

The ACLU has cited an incident there — after Batts left — in warning about the potential pitfalls of cameras. Two officers were disciplined after turning a camera off during a clash with Occupy Oakland protesters in late 2011.

"The balance that needs to be struck is to ensure that officers can't manipulate the video record, while also ensuring that officers are not subjected to a relentless regime of surveillance without any opportunity for shelter from constant monitoring," the organization said in a statement.

A study of the cameras last year reported a 50 percent drop in police use-of-force incidents in Rialto, Calif., a city of about 100,000. The study also reported a nearly 90 percent drop in citizens' complaints during the course of a year.

Steve Tuttle, a spokesman with Taser, the Scottsdale, Ariz.-based company that makes and operates camera systems for more than 800 agencies, said the recordings are simply an extension of recording already taking place via in-car cameras and civilians' cellphones.

Officers should be recording, Tuttle said, "because if you don't do it, somebody else is with their flip phone. They don't capture why the officer did it. It's not going to be from that officer's perspective."

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# WORLD

## UN: Syrian executions could be war crimes

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Extremist Islamic groups in Syria are committing a “soaring” number of killings in the country’s north that could amount to war crimes, the U.N. human rights office said Thursday.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said that over the past two weeks her office has received reports of “a succession of mass executions of civilians and fighters who were no longer participating in hostilities in Aleppo, Idlib and Raqqa by hardline armed opposition groups in Syria, in particular by the” al-Qaida-linked Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

She warned that such killings violate international humanitarian law, and the numbers of such violations are thought to be alarmingly high.

Pillay’s office reported that in the first week of January a number of people were killed in Idlib by armed opposition groups. It said that on Jan. 6 in Aleppo, three people reportedly held by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant at its base in Makhrif al-Saleh were found dead, handcuffed, with bullet wounds in their heads.

Two days later, also in Aleppo, “numerous bodies, again mostly handcuffed and blindfolded, were found in a Children’s Hospital” once used as a base by the group, the U.N. office said. It said at least four local media activists were among the dead, as well as captured fighters from armed opposition groups.

Pillay said there also are “deeply disturbing reports emerging of mass executions” by the al-Qaida-linked group, both when it withdrew from Raqqa and after it regained control earlier this week.

“These reports are particularly alarming, given the large numbers of people, including civilians, that armed opposition groups in Syria are believed to be holding in custody,” Pillay said. “The taking of hostages is prohibited under international humanitarian law and may also constitute a war crime.”

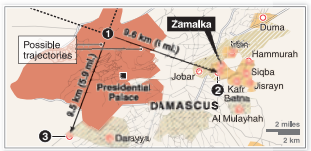
## Analysis of chemical attack under fire

A new study suggests the U.S. intelligence assessments of the August 2013 chemical weapons attacks outside Damascus, Syria, were flawed. The study says the design of rocket used in the attacks, its likely payload and its possible trajectories show it would have been impossible for the rocket to have been fired from inside areas controlled by the Syrian government.

○ Chemical attacks, Aug. 21, 2013    ● Regime control    ○ Opposition control    ● Contested areas

Details of White House analysis released Aug. 30, 2013

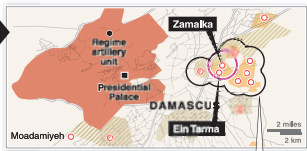
Rocket fragments studied at two sites by U.N. inspectors suggest flight trajectories shown below.



1. A regime artillery unit atop Qassim Mountain.
2. At impact site at Ein Tarma, rocket parts indicate a bearing of 285°.
3. Rocket parts at Moadamiyeh indicate bearings of 34°, 35°.

New analysis questions rockets’ range

Assembly of modified Grad rockets suggests a maximum range of 1.3 mi., far shorter than range stated by the White House.



- Rocket parts based on Grad design suggest a maximum range of 1.3 mi., far shorter than range stated by the White House.
- Pieces found at Zamaika suggest a modified weapon of relatively short range.
- Maximum range for each chemical weapon impact point

SOURCES: MIT Science, Technology and Global Security Working Group, McClatchy Washington Bureau

ROBERT DORRILL, JUDY TREIBL/MCT

## Analysis of rocket used in sarin gas attack undercuts US claims

By MATTHEW SCHOFIELD

McClatchy Foreign Staff

BERLIN — A series of revelations about the rocket believed to have delivered poison sarin gas to a Damascus suburb last summer are challenging American intelligence assumptions about that attack and suggest that the case U.S. officials initially made for retaliatory military action was flawed.

A team of security and arms experts, meeting this week in Washington to discuss the matter, has concluded that the range of the rocket that delivered sarin in the largest attack that night was too short for the device to have been fired from the Syrian government positions where the Obama administration says they originated.

Separately, international weapons experts are puzzling over why the rocket in question — an improvised 330 mm to 350 mm rocket equipped with a large receptacle on its nose to hold chemicals — reportedly did not appear in the Syrian government’s declaration of its arsenal to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons apparently was not uncovered by OPCW inspectors who believe they have destroyed Syria’s ability to deliver a chemical attack.

Neither development proves decisively that Syrian government forces did not fire the chemicals that killed hundreds of Syrians in the early morning hours of Aug. 21. U.S. officials continue to insist that the case for Syrian government responsibility for the attack in East Ghouta is stronger than any suggestion of rebel involve-

ment, while experts say it is possible Syria left the rockets out of its chemical weapons declaration simply to make certain it could not be tied to the attack.

“That failure to declare can mean different things,” said Ralf Trapp, an original member of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and a former secretary of the group’s scientific advisory board. “It can mean the Syrian government doesn’t have them, or that they are hiding them.”

In Washington, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said its assertion of Syrian government responsibility remains unchanged.

“The body of information used to make the assessment regarding the August 21 attack included intelligence pertaining to the regime’s preparations for this attack and its means of delivery, multiple streams of intelligence about the attack itself and its effect, our post-attack observations, and the differences between the capabilities of the regime and the opposition. That assessment made clear that the opposition had not used chemical weapons in Syria,” it said Wednesday in an email.

The authors of a report released Wednesday said that their study of the rocket’s design, its likely payload and its possible trajectories show that it would have been impossible for the rocket to have been fired from inside areas controlled by the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

In the report, titled “Possible

Implications of Faulty U.S. Technical Intelligence,” Richard Lloyd, a former United Nations weapons inspector, and Theodore Postol, a professor of science, technology and national security policy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, argue that the question about the rocket’s range indicates a major weakness in the case for military action initially pressed by Obama administration officials.

The administration eventually withdrew its request for congressional authorization for a military strike after Syria agreed to submit to the Chemical Weapons Convention, which bans the weapons.

Relying on mathematical projections about the likely force of the rocket and noting that its design — some have described it as a trash can on a stick — would have made it awkward in flight, Lloyd and Postol conclude that the rocket likely had a maximum range of just more than 1.2 miles. That range, the report explains in detail, means the rockets could not have come from land controlled by the Syrian government.

To emphasize their point, the authors used a map produced by the White House that showed which areas were under government and rebel control on Aug. 21 and where the chemical weapons attack occurred. Drawing circles around Zamaika to show the range from which the rocket could have come, the authors conclude that all of the likely launching points were in rebel-held areas or areas that were in dispute.

## Voters in Egypt back charter, official says

CAIRO — An overwhelming majority of Egyptians who voted on the country’s new constitution have backed the draft charter, a senior official said Thursday.

The official told The Associated Press that unofficial results, after most ballots have been counted, indicate that more than 90 percent of the voters have said “yes” to the constitution.

He declined to give an estimate on the final turnout and spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk to the media. The vote held Tuesday and Wednesday is a milestone for Egypt’s interim government, installed by the military after the ouster last July of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

The draft is also a key piece of a political road map toward new elections for a president and a test of public opinion about the coup that removed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood. It is a heavily amended version of a constitution written by Morsi’s Islamist allies and ratified in December 2012 with some 64 percent of the vote but with a nationwide turnout of just over 30 percent.

Morsi’s Brotherhood boycotted the referendum while the country’s second-largest Islamist group, the ultraconservative Salafis, also stayed away from the polls in response to a crackdown against Islamists that included confiscation of their assets, shutdown of their TV networks and the banning of their top clerics from preaching in mosques.

This left traditional Islamist strongholds across Egypt seeing only a trickle of voters during the two-day balloting.

## Indian police close in on 6 men in gang rape

NEW DELHI — Indian police said Thursday that they were closing in on six homeless men in the gang rape of a 51-year-old Danish tourist in New Delhi, a case that highlights the plague of sexual violence in the country and threatens to tarnish its tourism industry.

Two other suspects were picked up Wednesday night and accused of taking part in Tuesday’s attack, which lasted nearly three hours and happened near Connaught Place, a popular shopping area in the heart of New Delhi, police spokesman Rajan Bhagat said.

“We have identified the culprits. All of them are vagabonds,” a police official said, according to the Press Trust of India.

From The Associated Press

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## WORLD

## French actress files lawsuit over report of Hollande affair

By JAMEY KEATEN  
The Associated Press

PARIS — A French actress suspected of having an affair with President Francois Hollande has filed a lawsuit against a gossip magazine for alleged invasion of privacy over its report.

A representative of Closer magazine says the publication received legal documents Thursday from Julie Gayet and her lawyers. The lawsuit seeks about \$74,000 in damages and other fees, plus the publication of a summary of any judicial ruling in the case on its front page.

Also Thursday, France's first lady was making progress in a hospital. Valerie Trierweiler was hospitalized Jan. 9 for rest following the report, which said Hollande sneaked into an apartment near the presidential palace to meet the actress.



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

French actress Julie Gayet appears at the 2012 Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala, in Palm Springs, Calif.

Trierweiler spokesman Patrice Biancone said Thursday that the first lady was progressing, saying six days of rest "counts, after all."

Hollande has expressed "indignation" about the report, but stopped short of saying he'd sue.

## International pedophile ring broken up

By DANICA KIRKA  
AND JIM GOMEZ  
The Associated Press

LONDON — Child abuse investigators in Britain, the U.S. and Australia have dismantled an organized crime group that streamed live webcam footage of child sexual abuse from the Philippines for paying viewers around the world.

An international investigation broke up the ring, which abused impoverished children as young as 6, Britain's National Crime Agency said Thursday. Authorities made 29 arrests, including 11 people in the Philippines who had facilitated the crime. Some were members of the children's families.

Police describe the use of webcams to stream live child abuse — especially from develop-

ing countries — as a "significant and emerging threat."

"This investigation has identified some extremely dangerous child sexual offenders who believed paying for children to be abused to order was something they could get away with," said Andy Baker, the deputy director of the agency's command for child protection.

"Being thousands of miles away makes no difference to their guilt. In my mind, they are just as responsible for the abuse of these children as the contact abusers overseas."

The investigation began in 2012 after a routine police visit to Timothy Ford, a registered sex offender in Britain. Police found a number of indecent videos on his computer and contacted child abuse investigators, touching off

a global investigation that identified more "customers" and others involved in the ring.

U.K., Australian and U.S. authorities worked together on the case with the International Justice Mission, a nongovernmental group. Together, the agencies presented their data to authorities in the Philippines to identify offenders and victims.

The investigation, codenamed Operation Endeavour, spanned 12 countries including France, Germany, Switzerland and Canada. Five people have been convicted in the U.K., including Ford, who was sentenced in March to 8½ years in prison.

The agency said Ford paid to watch the live abuse and had planned to move to the Philippines to set up an Internet cafe.

## Vatican criticized over sex abuse

By JOHN HEILPRIN  
AND NICOLE WINFIELD  
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The Vatican came under blistering criticism from a U.N. committee Thursday for its handling of the global priest sex abuse scandal, facing its most intense public grilling to date over allegations that it protected pedophile priests at the expense of victims.

The Vatican insisted it had little jurisdiction to sanction pedophile priests around the globe, saying it was for local law enforcement to do so. But officials conceded that more needs to be done and promised to build on progress already made to become a model for others, given the scale of the problem and the role the Holy See plays in the international community.

"The Holy See gets it," Monsignor Charles Scicluna, the Vatican's former sex crimes prosecutor, told the committee. "Let's not say too late or not. But there are certain things that need to be done differently."

He was responding to a grilling by the U.N. committee over the Holy See's failure to abide by terms of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child which, among other things, calls for signatories to take all appropriate measures to keep children from harm. Critics allege the church enabled the rape of thousands of children by encouraging a culture of cover-up to defend its reputation.

Groups representing victims of clerical abuse, who have been active in civil litigation against the church, gave the U.N. committee

hundreds of pages of documents that informed the questioning. The groups have welcomed the hearing as the first time the Vatican has had to publicly defend its record in what amounted to a courtroom cross-examination in which no limits were placed on the questioning.

The scene inside the conference room at U.N. headquarters in Geneva was remarkable by U.N. standards, with committee members, themselves, marveling at how such a powerful institution as the Holy See could be hauled before a relatively obscure U.N. human rights committee to answer uncomfortable questions.

It also was remarkable by Vatican standards. Traditionally the Holy See has insisted that the Vatican as an institution bore little or no responsibility for the problem, blaming scandals and cases on individual priests or their bishops over whom the Vatican has no real control.

While insisting on that legal separation, though, the Vatican did respond to questions about cases even where it had no jurisdiction or involvement, and on many occasions welcomed recommendations on ways to make children safer.

"The words you hear when you say, 'All these nice words will not mean anything ... if there is not more transparency and accountability on the local level,'" Scicluna told committee member Benyam Mezmur, an Ethiopian academic who asked what it would take for the Holy See to sanction bishops who fail to report pedophiles to police.

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## FACES

# 'Hustle,' 'Gravity' lead Oscar nominations

By JAKE COYLE  
The Associated Press

The con-artist comedy "American Hustle" and the 3-D space odyssey "Gravity" lead the Academy Awards with 10 nominations each, with the historical epic "12 Years a Slave" trailing closely with nine nominations.

The nominations announced Thursday set up a race between three very different films, all of which were nominated for best picture.

Nine films were nominated for best picture. The other nominees are "Captain Phillips," "Dallas Buyers Club," "Her," "Nebraska," "The Wolf of Wall Street" and the British film "Philomena."

The most notable omission for a nomination was Tom Hanks for his lead performance in "Captain Phillips." Hanks has been nominated five times previously, and has won for "Forrest Gump" and "Philadelphia."

Robert Redford, expected by many to be nominated for the shipwreck drama "All Is Lost," also missed out on a best actor nod. Redford has never won an acting Oscar.

Disney's making of "Mary Poppins" tale "Sav-

ing Mr. Banks" also failed to land either a best picture nomination or a best actress nod for British-born Emma Thompson.

The best actress nominees are Amy Adams ("American Hustle"), Australian-born Cate Blanchett ("Blue Jasmine"), Sandra Bullock ("Gravity"), British-born Judi Dench ("Philomena") and Meryl Streep ("August: Osage County").

This is Streep's 18th nomination, including three wins.

Many enjoyed their first Oscar nomination Thursday, including Ejiofor, McConaughey, Michael Fassbender ("12 Years a Slave"), McQueen, Barkhad Abdi (a limo driver before being cast in "Captain Phillips") and Jared Leto, who had devoted himself to music before returning to play a transsexual in the drama "Dallas Buyers Club."

Though historically the most-nominated films have taken home the best picture award, that's not been the case in recent years. In six of the past 10 years, the most-nominated film hasn't won in the end, including last year when "Lincoln," with 12 nominations, was beaten by "Argo."



The 86th annual Academy Awards, with host Ellen DeGeneres, are March 2. The show's producers have said the ceremony this year will honor heroes — and the filmmakers who bring them to life. Craig Zadan and Neil Meron said Tuesday they wanted to unify the show with an entertaining and emotional theme.

AP

## SELECT NOMINEES FOR THE 86TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS

**Best Picture:** "American Hustle," "Captain Phillips," "Dallas Buyers Club," "Gravity," "Her," "Nebraska," "Philomena," "12 Years a Slave," "The Wolf of Wall Street"

**Actor:** Christian Bale, "American Hustle"; Bruce Dern, "Nebraska"; Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Wolf of Wall Street"; Chiwetel Ejiofor, "12 Years a Slave"; Matthew McConaughey, "Dallas Buyers Club"

**Actress:** Amy Adams, "American Hustle"; Cate Blanchett, "Blue Jasmine"; Sandra Bullock, "Gravity"; Judi Dench, "Philomena"; Meryl Streep, "August: Osage County"

**Supporting Actor:** Barkhad Abdi, "Captain Phillips"; Bradley Cooper, "American Hustle"; Michael Fassbender, "12 Years a Slave"; Jonah Hill, "The Wolf of Wall Street"; Jared Leto, "Dallas Buyers Club"

**Supporting Actress:** Sally Hawkins, "Blue Jasmine"; Jennifer Lawrence, "American Hustle"; Lupita Nyong'o, "12 Years a Slave"; Julia Roberts, "August: Osage County"; June Squibb, "Nebraska"

**Directing:** David O. Russell, "American Hustle"; Alfonso Cuarón, "Gravity"; Alexander Payne, "Nebraska"; Steve McQueen, "12 Years a

Slave"; Martin Scorsese, "The Wolf of Wall Street"

**Foreign Language Film:** "The Broken Circle Breakdown," Belgium; "The Great Beauty," Italy; "The Hunt," Denmark; "The Missing Picture," Cambodia; "Omar," Palestine

**Animated Feature Film:** "The Croods"; "Despicable Me 2"; "Ernest & Celestine"; "Frozen"; "The Wind Rises"

**Original Song:** "Alone Yet Not Alone" from "Alone Yet Not Alone," Bruce Broughton and Dennis Spiegel; "Happy" from "Despicable Me 2," Pharrell Williams; "Let It Go" from "Frozen,"

Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez; "The Moon Song" from "Her," Karen O and Spike Jonze; "Ordinary Love" from "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom," Paul Hewson, Dave Evans, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen

**Costume:** "American Hustle," "The Grandmaster," "The Great Gatsby," "The Invisible Woman," "12 Years a Slave"

**Makeup and Hairstyling:** "Dallas Buyers Club," "Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa," "The Lone Ranger"

For a complete list: [oscar.go.com](http://oscar.go.com)

From The Associated Press

## REACTIONS TO THE NOMINATIONS



"Yesterday I was doing jury duty, today I woke up with an Academy Award nomination. Only in America."

— Jared Leto on his nomination for best supporting actor for "Dallas Buyers Club"



"Congratulations to the cast and crew of 'American Hustle' and 'Her,' two films that I'm incredibly proud to be a part of."

— Best actress nominee Amy Adams, who was nominated for her role in "American Hustle."



"I'm at home in Malibu, having a cup of tea, catching the sunrise. My newborn's walking around. ... What a great alarm clock and news to wake up to this morning."

— Best actor nominee Matthew McConaughey, for his performance in "Dallas Buyers Club"



"My knees buckled. It's the last thing I expected."

— Sally Hawkins, nominated for best supporting actress for her role in "Blue Jasmine"

Quotes and photos from The Associated Press



## FACES



## Producer: Revelations vindicate show

BY LYNN ELBER  
The Associated Press

Producers of "Person of Interest" said revelations about government surveillance have proved early critics of the TV drama wrong.

Jonathan Nolan recalled that the show about an all-seeing machine used to prevent crime was labeled far-fetched by some observers when it debuted in 2011.

But after former National Security Agency analyst Edward Snowden's disclosures about secret government surveillance programs, there was a brief period of gloating at "Person of Interest," Nolan said.

"It validated our decision to wear tinfoil hats for the last two years," he

**'We've always said, if we do our job, at the end of every episode you should be looking at your cell phone a little bit differently.'**

Greg Plageman  
producer, "Person of Interest"

said Wednesday.

Concern about "our nation's descent into an Orwellian nightmare" aside, Nolan said, comparisons between the show and the NSA disclosures have given "Person of Interest" a third-season boost of attention.

The show has had a "pervasive sense of paranoia" from the start, said his fel-

low producer, Greg Plageman.

"We've always said, if we do our job, at the end of every episode you should be looking at your cell phone a little bit differently on the table," Plageman said.

Plageman and Nolan made their comments as part of a Q&A session between CBS drama producers and members of the Television Critics Association.

"Person of Interest" stars Michael Emerson, left, and Jim Caviezel. The show airs Wednesdays on AFN-Prime.

CBS

## TV a haven for actors, according to Thornton

BY LYNN ELBER  
The Associated Press

Billy Bob Thornton said actors who want to work on sophisticated projects are finding them in television and not film.

He's proving the point with a starring role in the upcoming FX series "Fargo," inspired by the 1996 Joel and Ethan Coen movie.

Thornton told a Television Critics Association meeting Tuesday that while Hollywood studios churn out action movies, broad comedies and "movies where apparently vampires are all models," TV offers the kind of insightful work once common in films.

He says that's why peers like Kevin Costner, Dennis Quaid and Kevin Bacon have turned to television.

"The entertainment business can pretend all they want, but the movie world has changed drastically, particularly in the last five or six years," said Thornton, who won a best-screenplay Oscar for "Sling Blade" and was nominated for his role in the 1996 film.

"If you want to be an actor, get on a really good series in television because there's where it's at," Thornton said.



Thornton

## Trace Adkins leaves cruise, enters rehab

Country singer Trace Adkins has entered alcohol rehab.

Adkins' publicist tells Country Weekly and confirms to

The Associated Press on Wednesday that the singer entered rehab after consuming alcohol during the Country Cruising cruise.

The 52-year-old "Celebrity Apprentice" winner has canceled the remainder of his performances during the week-long cruise that wraps up Sunday after stops in Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Mexico.

There were no other details available.

An email to Norwegian Cruise Lines seeking information was not immediately returned.

Wyonna, Montgomery Gentry and Love and Theft were among the other acts performing aboard the NCL Pearl with Adkins.

From The Associated Press



Adkins

## CBS is sticking with what works when it comes to pilots

From wire reports

The process of making TV pilots every year may be a relic of the pre-Netflix era — but CBS isn't going to abandon it any time soon.

"Pilot season does work for us," CBS Entertainment President Nina Tassler told reporters Wednesday at the TV media tour in Pasadena, Calif. "It's not perfect ... it certainly is a very difficult time ... (but) it's also exciting." Tassler said the "creative adrenaline" of pilot season had led to such hits as "The Big Bang Theory" and "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

Pilots — or more specifically, the season from December to May when pilots are ordered, made and then possibly given the green light for fall or midseason series — are a topic of hot debate in the TV industry right now. The process will win no awards for efficiency: Out of several dozen pilots made each spring, each network typically picks five or six new fall shows.

As usual, CBS seemed determined to emphasize stability, announcing that it was renewing its entire daytime lineup, including "The Talk," "The Price Is Right" and soaps "The Young and the Restless" and "The Bold and the Beautiful."

### CW: 'Veronica Mars' spinoff planned for online

The CW says it's developing an online spinoff of the "Veronica Mars" series.

Series creator Rob Thomas has agreed to do the digital version, CW President Mark Pedowitz told a meeting of the Television Critics Association on Wednesday.

The decision to proceed with the spinoff was made Tuesday and details have yet to be worked out, including the cast and characters, the CW said. A debut date was not announced.

"Veronica Mars," which was canceled in 2007 after three seasons, is enjoying a re-

surge. A film based on the show about a crime-solving teen, played by Kristen Bell, was funded by the crowd-funding site Kickstarter. The movie is due out in March.

### Network to air miniseries about search for Holy Grail

The CW network says it has acquired a miniseries about the search for the Holy Grail.

The cast of the four-hour project, "Labyrinth," includes former "Downton Abbey" star Jessica Brown-Findlay, along with Vanessa Kirby, Sebastian Stan and John Hurt.

The miniseries centers on a 13th-century teenager and a modern woman, and their shared quest for the grail, the cup said to have been used by Jesus Christ.

"Labyrinth" is adapted from Kate Mosse's best-selling novel of the same name. An air date wasn't announced for the drama, which has appeared in Britain and elsewhere.



## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Apple to refund \$32.5M for kids' buys

By JENNIFER C. KERR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Plenty of parents have been there — handing over the iPhone or iPad to a child while waiting in the doctor's office, standing in line at Starbucks or sitting in the car for a long road trip with the family. The youngster is playing a game on a fun mobile app and then hands you the phone saying he needs your password. Next thing

you know, there's a charge on your credit card from Apple.

Too often, parents were caught unaware that by entering their password they were authorizing purchases of virtual pet treats, coins or perhaps a way to advance to the game's next level, the Federal Trade Commission said Wednesday in announcing that Apple Inc. had agreed to refund at least \$32.5 million to unsuspecting parents.

"You cannot charge consum-

ers for purchases they did not authorize," said Edith Ramirez, the commission chairwoman.

The FTC received tens of thousands of consumer complaints. As part of the settlement, the FTC said Apple also must change its billing practices to make it more obvious that an actual purchase is taking place during the course of the game or app.

Apple CEO Tim Cook said the Cupertino, Calif.-based company related to the FTC because the

consent decree "does not require us to do anything we weren't already going to do, so we decided to accept it rather than take on a long and distracting legal fight."

One parent told the FTC her daughter had spent \$2,600 in "Tap Pet Hotel," in which children can build their own pet lodgings. The game is free to download and play, but it takes in-app purchases for bowls of treats and sacks of coins for the game.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 17)	\$1.3990
Dollar buys (Jan. 17)	69.7148
British pound (Jan. 17)	\$1.68
Japanese yen (Jan. 17)	102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 17)	1,036.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6359/6.113
Canada (dollar)	1.0919
China (Yuan)	0.6560
Denmark (Krone)	5.4752
Egypt (Pound)	2.8645
Euro	\$1.3629/7.337
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7547
Hungary (Forint)	220.58
Israel (Shekel)	3.4904
Japan (Yen)	104.04
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2835
Norway (Krone)	6.1683
Philippines (Peso)	45.16
Poland (Zloty)	3.10
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2725
South Korea (Won)	1,063.99
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9057
Thailand (Baht)	32.78
Turkey (New Lira)	2.2048

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., currencies provided for reference when buying currency, all figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	3.75
Federal funds market rate	0.07
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.82

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.564	\$3.742	\$3.520	\$4.123
Change in price	-0.5 cents	-0.8 cents	-0.7 cents	-2.4 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.691	\$4.987	\$5.035
Change in price	---	-0.2 cents	+0.2 cents	-4.3 cents
U.K.	---	\$3.677	\$3.855	\$4.058
Change in price	---	-0.8 cents	-0.7 cents	-2.4 cents
Azores	---	---	\$4.482	---
Change in price	---	---	no change	---
Turkey	---	---	\$4.876	\$4.287
Change in price	---	---	no change	no change
Italy	---	---	\$4.445	\$3.991
Change in price	---	---	no change	-2.4 cents
Italy	\$3.936	---	---	\$4.277
Change in price	no change	---	---	no change

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$3.499	---	\$3.879
Change in price	---	-1.0 cents	---	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.519	---	---	\$3.879
Change in price	no change	---	---	-2.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.579	\$4.039	\$4.139	---
Change in price	-1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	-3.0 cents	---
Guam	\$3.579**	\$3.740	\$3.929	---
Change in price	-1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	---

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade

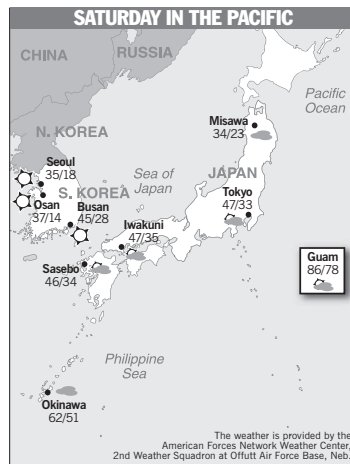
For the week of Jan. 18-24

## MARKET WATCH

Jan. 15, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	+108.08
	16,481.94
Nasdaq composite	+31.87
	4,214.88
Standard & Poor's 500	+9.50
	1,848.38
Russell	+7.53
	1,170.95

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



## Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	56	28	Cir	Chatanooga	41	29	Cir	Fort Wayne	25	18	Cir	Louisville	28	26	Cir	Pocatello	38	19	Cir
Akron, Ohio	51	23	Snow	Cheyenne	48	22	Cir	Crescent	69	36	Cir	Lubbock	56	24	Cir	Portland, Maine	39	30	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	41	24	Cir	Cincinnati	49	26	Cir	Goodland	52	21	PCldy	Macon	52	30	Cir	Portland, Ore.	51	31	PCldy
Albuquerque	55	27	Cir	Cleveland	30	24	Cir	Grand Rapids	26	21	Snow	Medford	48	28	Cir	Pueblo	56	13	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	41	25	Cir	Colorado Springs	53	20	Cir	Great Falls	53	33	PCldy	Memphis	36	29	Cir	Rapid City	50	27	PCldy
Amarillo	54	24	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	52	29	PCldy	Green Bay	19	16	Cir	Miami Beach	69	43	Cir	Reno	58	23	Cir
Anchorage	37	30	Rain	Columbus, Ga.	50	32	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	47	27	Cir	Midland-Odessa	59	25	Cir	Rio Grande	48	26	Cir
Asheville	40	23	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	50	32	Cir	Harrisburg	46	26	Snow	Milwaukee	19	15	Cir	Richmond	48	28	PCldy
Atlanta	42	22	Cir	Concord, N.H.	39	25	Cir	Hartford Spfld	45	26	PCldy	Mpls-St Paul	12	2	PCldy	Roanoke	48	26	Cir
Atlantic City	47	26	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	68	47	Cir	Helena	44	25	PCldy	Missoula	33	21	Cir	Rochester	38	28	Cir
Austin	63	29	Cir	Dallas-Ft Worth	58	35	Cir	Honolulu	82	67	Cir	Mobile	82	67	Cir	Rockford	14	8	Cir
Baltimore	44	28	Cir	Dayton	26	24	Cir	Houston	61	41	Cir	Montgomery	49	31	Cir	Sacramento	68	34	Cir
Baton Rouge	58	39	Cir	Daytona Beach	67	34	Cir	Huntsville	38	29	Cir	Nashville	32	29	Cir	St Louis	22	13	Snow
Bilings	50	31	Cir	Denver	52	21	Cir	Indianapolis	24	18	Cir	New Orleans	60	42	Cir	St Petersburg	47	17	Cir
Birmingham	42	31	Cir	Des Moines	22	7	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	51	31	Cir	New York City	44	31	Cir	St Thomas	85	73	Cir
Bismarck	35	24	Cir	Detroit	27	24	Cir	Jacksonville	61	31	PCldy	Newark	46	31	Cir	Salt Lake City	42	23	Cir
Boise	40	26	Cir	Duluth	10	-1	Cir	Juneau	43	37	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	50	30	PCldy	Salt Lake City	42	23	Cir
Boston	45	29	Cir	El Paso	62	31	Cir	Kansas City	27	14	Cir	North Platte	49	12	PCldy	San Antonio	59	28	Cir
Bridgport	45	29	Cir	Elkins	33	23	Snow	Key West	66	52	PCldy	Oklahoma City	50	27	PCldy	San Antonio	59	28	Cir
Brownsville	71	52	PCldy	Erie	32	29	Cir	Knoxville	40	28	Cir	Omaha	29	10	PCldy	San Diego	78	51	Cir
Buffalo	36	28	Cir	Eugene	44	28	Cir	Lake Charles	58	41	PCldy	Orlando	67	34	PCldy	San Francisco	66	45	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	43	23	Cir	Evansville	42	22	Cir	Lansing	25	22	Cir	Paducah	26	25	Cir	San Jose	70	39	Cir
Caribou, Maine	34	24	Cir	Fairbanks	17	3	Cir	Las Vegas	69	43	Cir	Pendleton	44	26	Cir	Santa Fe	50	21	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	56	32	PCldy	Fargo	16	-10	Cir	Lexington	29	26	Cir	Peoria	15	8	Cir	St Marie	23	21	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	56	32	PCldy	Flagstaff	51	18	Cir	Lincoln	36	10	PCldy	Philadelphia	45	31	Cir	Savannah	57	32	PCldy
Charlotte, N.C.	48	28	Cir	Fort Smith	27	21	Cir	Little Rock	40	28	Cir	Phoenix	77	46	Cir	Seattle	44	36	Cir
							Los Angeles	82	52	Cir	Pittsburgh	31	23	Cir	Shreveport	54	33	Cir	

National temperature extremes

Hi:	20	Fullerton, Calif., and Camp Pendleton, Calif.
Lo:	7	Chattanooga, Tenn., and Winnetka, Minn.

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes  
Hi: Wed., 90, Fullerton, Calif., and Camp Pendleton, Calif.  
Lo: Wed., -24, Crane Lake, Minn.



# WEEKEND



High hopes for  
Springsteen's album  
Page 37

## The right call

True-story tale 'Lone Survivor'  
keeps its focus on the action

Page 24



## Sweet trip

Haribo candy  
store in Bonn,  
Germany, not  
just for kids

Europe travel, Page 30



## Older ways

Tokyo's Yanaka  
neighborhood  
has a mid-20th  
century vibe

Pacific travel, Page 34





# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

## New and improved

### Hottest gadgets at trade show include wearable tech, expanded uses for 3-D

BY RYAN NAKASHIMA  
AND PETER SVENSSON  
The Associated Press

**T**he biggest gadget trade show in the Americas wrapped up on Jan. 10 in Las Vegas after swamping the city with 150,000 attendees. This year, "wearable" computing was big, along with various 3-D technologies, especially 3-D printing.

Wearable devices in the shape of smartwatches and head-mounted displays have been a staple of the show for a long time, but manufacturers were excited this year because the field is finally gaining traction with consumers. Fitness bands were a breakout hit last year. The 3-D printing section bustled with activity, and it was clear that even though most people won't be buying a printer any time soon, they might be enjoying 3-D-printed products, such as jewelry, wedding cakes and dental braces, in the near future. Meanwhile, TV makers were heartened by the support they received for their new ultra-high-definition TV sets.

Here are some of the most notable products and services revealed at the show:

#### Driverless cars

The state of the art in car electronics is in systems that eliminate or ease the task of driving. French company Induct demonstrated its Navia driverless shuttle, which puts along at 12.5 miles (20 kilometers) per hour on a pre-programmed route. It's intended for university campuses, airports and other locales with enclosed roads.

What about road safety? When a staffer walked slowly in front of the Navia, the vehicle slowed down, rather than coming to a full stop, because it recognized that the pedestrian ahead was moving, too.

Then there was Audi's automated parking demonstration. With a press of a button on a smartphone app, the German automaker's computer-equipped car squeezed into a tight space between two other cars, a situation that would give many drivers pause. The car has multiple cameras and ultrasonic sensors, giving it a 360-degree view. It puts rubber-necking

and looking through the side-view mirror to shame. The car executed a three-point turn flawlessly — and the driver didn't have to worry about dinging other cars' doors, because he had already exited the car.

#### UV-sensing wristband

The wearable computing trend has unleashed a lot of creativity. One example is a wristband with a "gemstone" that measures exposure to ultraviolet light, the kind that causes tanning and skin cancers. Using Bluetooth wireless technology, the Netatmo June sends readings to the owners' smartphones, warning, for instance, when they're approaching their daily limit of UV exposure. The battery lasts for six weeks. Netatmo, a French company, hopes to sell the device in the U.S. for \$99, starting in the second quarter of this year.

#### Ultra-high-def Netflix

Netflix demonstrated ultra-high-definition, or 4K, video streaming. The company will offer relatively easy access to shows that take full advantage of the 4K TVs set to go on sale later this year. (The 4K TVs on the market today don't have the chips necessary to decode the picture.) Netflix's 4K content will stream at 15.6 megabits per second, so viewers will need a relatively fast Internet connection.

#### Enveloping photo booth

At the Nikon exhibit, Los Angeles-based photographer Alexx Henry set up a small tent with 68 inward-facing, off-the-shelf Nikon cameras. When a subject steps inside the xxArray photo booth, an operator triggers the cameras simultaneously, yielding an image of the subject from all angles. Computers then process the images and create a 3-D rendition of the subject, which can then be posed in the computer as if it were an action figure. The 3-D model can also be imported into a game. So instead of playing with a generic game avatar, you may someday see yourself running around, blasting bad guys.

#### Sugar printer

A company called 3D Systems showed



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

**A trade show attendee examines a centerpiece confection made with a ChefJet Pro 3D food printer at the International Consumer Electronics Show on Jan. 9 in Las Vegas.**

off the ChefJet, the first restaurant-approved food printer. The device uses water to melt sugar into shapes as complicated as the mind can imagine. The company's booth featured a wedding cake held up by an edible lattice-work tower that would have been nearly impossible to create by other means. The ChefJet can print complex works in chocolate, too. Unfortunately, the samples the company handed out didn't taste very good, but party planners and restaurateurs will likely be excited about the possibilities culinary 3-D printing opens up.

#### Sony's head-mounted display

This product looks like an enormous pair of glasses. When you strap on Sony's head-mounted display, you take on the perspective of a motorcycle driver racing through the English countryside. Looking down shows the pavement speeding by; looking up shows the clouds. When you swivel your head to the right or left, you might be tempted to wave to the crowds along the road. All this is enabled by a sensor attached to a strap that tracks your head movements and adjusts the wide-angle picture accordingly.

Although there were a few kinks that marred the illusion, the demonstration gave a taste of what's possible when "wearable" displays and computers combine with movement sensors.

#### Heat-sensing iPhone

FLIR Systems Inc., the leading maker of professional imagers that "see" heat, is bringing out its first consumer-level product: a jacket for the iPhone that contains a heat camera. Temperature differences show up in different colors on the screen of the phone. For instance, you can set it to show hotter things in yellow, medium-hot in red and cold in purple. It can discern temperature differences as small as one tenth of a degree. The FLIR One will cost \$349. Practical applications for the camera include identifying leaky insulation and moisture. Fun applications include spotting wildlife or high-tech hide-and-seek.

#### Anki Drive racing game

In this very high-tech update to Scalextric slot racers, your iPhone doubles as a controller for cars that zip around on a track painted with an infrared pattern the cars see with small cameras on their undersides.

Somehow, the cars fly around without rails, unless you do something really crazy. You can shoot imaginary weapons with rapid-fire tapping on your screen, disabling cars in front of you so you can race ahead. For kids, the game is a mind-blower that could inspire them to create their own gadgets, the way Erector Sets once did.

## ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for Jan. 15:

1. "High Hopes," Bruce Springsteen
2. "Fading West," Switchfoot
3. "Frozen" (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
4. "That Girl" (Deluxe Edition), Jennifer Nettles
5. "Kidz Bop 25," Kidz Bop Kids
6. "Only King Forever," Elevation Worship
7. "Cowboy Like Me," Cody Johnson
8. "All This Bad Blood," Bastille
9. "Supermodel," Foster the People
10. "Write You a Song," Jon Pardi

— Compiled by MCT

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from Jan. 6-12:

1. A Great Big World, "Say Something"
2. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
3. Pitbull, "Timber"
4. OneRepublic, "Counting Stars"
5. Lorde, "Royals"
6. Eminem, "The Monster ft. Rihanna"
7. Lorde, "Team"
8. Passenger, "Let Her Go"
9. Bastille, "Pompeii"
10. Avicii, "Wake Me Up"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

## ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for Jan. 15:

1. "Lee Daniels' The Butler"
2. "Riddick" (Unrated Director's Cut)
3. "Rush"
4. "Enough Said"
5. "Runner Runner"
6. "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2"
7. "The Spectacular Now"
8. "Don Jon"
9. "Carrie" (2013)
10. "We're the Millers"

— Compiled by MCT

## VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the top 10 handheld games for January:

1. "The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds," 3DS
2. "Tearaway," Vita
3. "Pokémon X & Y," 3DS
4. "Ys: Memories of Celceta," Vita
5. "Rayman Legends," Vita
6. "Runner 2: Future Legend of Rhythm Alien," Vita
7. "Terraria," Vita
8. "Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney — Dual Destinies," 3DS
9. "Killzone: Mercenary," Vita
10. "Etrian Odyssey Untold: The Millennium Girl," 3DS

— Compiled by MCT

## APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for Jan. 15:

ANDROID

1. Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas
2. Black Wars — Mine Mini Shooter
3. Construction Simulator 2014
4. Enderman — Minecraft Edition
5. Colossatron

Top 5 paid apps for Jan. 15:

APPLE

1. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
2. Cut the Rope 2
3. Battle Supremacy
4. Joe Danger Infinity
5. Notability

— Compiled by MCT



## WEEKEND

# CHECK IT OUT

## Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

# 1

### A show for those who like their TV dark, deep

"True Detective," a quietly terrific new series, is coming to AFN. Though the show is fictional, it's named after an old real-crime magazine.

Each season will tell a separate story — a strategy better for attracting well-known actors who aren't eager to sign on to a series that could run for years. Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson star in the first season, which was written by novelist Nic Pizzolatto and directed by Cary Fukunaga ("Jane Eyre").

The story runs in flashback as two former police detectives, Rust Cohle (McConaughey) and Martin Hart (Harrelson), are interviewed separately about a 1995 murder case they worked together in Louisiana.

• "True Detective" premieres Jan. 18 on AFN-Spectrum



HBO/AP

Woody Harrelson and Matthew McConaughey, better known these days for movie roles, star in the TV series "True Detective."

# 2

### 'Veronica Mars' fans, this trailer's for you

"Veronica Mars," a TV show starring Kristen Bell as a teenage detective that ran from 2004-07, is officially now a movie. Fans of the show contributed more than \$5.7 million to a Kickstarter campaign so that the film, which was shot last summer in 23 days, could get made. It's due to be released stateside March 14.



• Watch the trailer at [tinyurl.com/lx8jdad](http://tinyurl.com/lx8jdad)

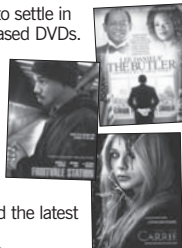
# 3

### Veg out-worthy DVDs

It's a good weekend to settle in with some newly released DVDs.

Among the buzzy titles that came out this week are "Fruitvale Station," "Lee Daniels' The Butler," the horror remake "Carrie," "Enough Said" with the late James Gandolfini, and the latest "Riddick."

• More new DVD releases on Page 39



# 4

### Teen's LEGO album covers really rock

A 17-year-old named Harry Heaton is finding fame on the Internet for re-creating well-known album covers out of virtual LEGOs. He's already posted more than 350 of his works on Tumblr, and he's adding more all the time. If you don't see your favorite, Heaton's taking requests, and he's even got a description of how to build your own.



• See the art at [legoalbums.tumblr.com](http://legoalbums.tumblr.com)



## WEEKEND: MOVIES

**‘It’s all relative. What I do for a living and what he does for a living is exactly the same. We both wake up in the morning, put out as hard as we can and then go to bed at night, hoping to see the next day.’**

— Former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, on “Lone Survivor” director Peter Berg and actor Mark Wahlberg, who portrays him in the film

# ‘Lone Survivor’ a brutal tribute to Navy SEALs

BY JAKE COYLE

The Associated Press

**M**arcus Luttrell, the former Navy SEAL whose deadly mission in Afghanistan has been turned into the film “Lone Survivor,” strides into a hotel room for an interview, trailed by his service dog, Mr. Rigby.

The tall, hulking, goateed Navy Cross recipient greets a journalist with a rock-hard grip, and nods to director Peter Berg and star Mark Wahlberg, who plays him in the film. This is clearly not what he wants to be doing. Based on Luttrell’s bestselling 2007 memoir, “Lone Survivor” is about a 2005 four-man operation in northeastern Afghanistan’s Kunar province that fell apart when a trio of goat herders stumbled upon the stake-out SEALs.

After releasing the civilians and aborting the mission, the SEALs were quickly ambushed by the Taliban in a firefight that tumbled down a rocky gulch, killed Luttrell’s three fellow SEALs, left Luttrell badly injured and, in an attempted rescue, killed 16 more men.

Luttrell would rather not talk about any of it. He went along with “Lone Survivor” and wrote the book at the urging of his superiors. Compared to the actual events, the movie is no traumatic experience for Luttrell. “I went through it in real life, so a movie about it isn’t going to affect me in any way,” said the 38-year-old Texan.

Hollywood and the American military are worlds apart. But “Lone Survivor” is a uniquely close collaboration, one in which Berg and Wahlberg (both producers) worked under significant pressure from the families of those who died and active-duty SEALs to faithfully render the soldiers’ lives, in battle and in brother-hood.

“I was at the screening when there were a hundred moms and dads of dead soldiers,” Berg said. “And I was at a screening where there were 500 active members of special operations, including Adm. (William) McRaven. And those are different. Because when those lights

come up, those people are going to look you in the eye.”

Over the years, SEALs have been played by the likes of Bruce Willis, Steven Seagal and Demi Moore, and been a mainstay in video games (“Call of Duty,” “Metal Gear Solid”). But the movies, often in close consultation with the military, have come a long way since 1990’s “Navy SEALs,” with Charlie Sheen.

2012’s “Act of Valor” was acted out by active-duty SEALs and used live-action sequences to portray a fictional covert mission. Kathryn Bigelow’s “Zero Dark Thirty” dramatized the most famous SEAL mission, the raid in Abbottabad that killed Osama bin Laden. The recent docudrama “Captain Phillips” re-created the rescue of the kidnapped mariner by SEAL snipers, with Tom Hanks’ most-moving scene improvised with a real-life Naval officer.

Such productions, though, have given rise to questions of accuracy and charges of propaganda.

U.S. senators, including Dianne Feinstein and John McCain, claimed that too much information was shared with the filmmakers of “Zero Dark Thirty,” and many criticized the film for suggesting torture aided the hunt for bin Laden. “Captain Phillips” showed only a handful of the 19 shots that were fired on the three Somali pirates, and didn’t mention the \$30,000 that went missing in the aftermath. Retired Army lieutenant general James B. Vaught argued that “Act of Valor” revealed too much about tactics: “Get the hell out of the media!” he implored.

But the military sees in the movies a chance to shape its image and insure some degree of authenticity in depictions of its servicemembers. “Lone Survivor” has largely drawn praise as a brutal ode to Navy SEALs and a faithful depiction of the moral confusion of combat.

“For films like ‘Black Hawk Down’ and ‘Lone Survivor,’ the com-

monality is the notion that this is an important opportunity to set the record straight or at least to portray things as they believe they happened,” said Philip Strub, head of the Defense Department’s Film and Television Liaison Office.

It can make for a thorny mix of fictionalization, artist license and classification issues. Berg consulted frequently with military liaisons and the Navy Office of Information while writing the script.

“I read the after-action reports,” Berg said. “I looked at the autopsies. I went to Iraq. I met all these guys. We just followed the blueprint that Luttrell laid out in his book. We never set out to do something non-Hollywood or Hollywood. We just literally told the story.”

“Everybody fell in line with what the goals were, what the agenda was and how high the standard was set by not only the SEAL team guys but their families,” Wahlberg said. “It was a lot of pressure, but everybody took a lot of pride in the fact that we were taking part in this thing.”

When the film premiered at the AFI Festival in November, Wahlberg made emotional comments about actors who brag about military training for a movie.

“I was really talking about myself, because I’ve been guilty of it many times, talking about how hard I had to work,” Wahlberg said. “It’s nothing compared to what they do.”

But Luttrell emerged from “Lone Survivor” with admiration for Berg and Wahlberg: “It’s all relative,” he said. “What I do for a living and what he does for a living is exactly the same.”

We both wake up in the morning, put out as hard as we can and then go to bed at night, hoping to see the next day. They ... worked with it and brought it to life from the pages in the book, from the blood on the mountain.”

“Lone Survivor” is the latest in a series of films that pay tribute to the Navy’s special forces. Pictured, from left, Peter Berg, the film’s director, star Mark Wahlberg, and former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, the central character of the film.

VICTORIA WILL, INVISION/AP





## WEEKEND: MOVIES

## Superb action anchors 'Lone Survivor'

Based on true story of ill-fated mission to oust Taliban leader

By JOCELYN NOVECK  
The Associated Press

With all the talk about fact-based films and how accurate they should or shouldn't be, it's worth noting that some stories are best brought to screen as simply and purely as possible.

This is especially true with a film like "Lone Survivor." Peter Berg's expertly rendered account of a disastrous 2005 military operation in Afghanistan. War is messy, and politics are messy. But Berg has wisely chosen to focus pretty squarely on the action, and to present it as straightforwardly as possible.

And he's executed that approach with admirable skill, down to using autopsy reports to get the number of wounds a soldier suffered exactly right. "Lone Survivor" doesn't have nearly the sweep of a major war film like Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan." But the action scenes — basically, one protracted, harrowing firefight — feel as realistic as any we've seen on the screen for some time.

That firefight, for those unfamiliar with the story (Berg also penned the screenplay, based on the memoir by former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell), took place on June 28, 2005,



From left: Taylor Kitsch as Michael Murphy, Mark Wahlberg as Marcus Luttrell, Ben Foster as Matt "Axe" Axelson and Emile Hirsch as Danny Dietz star in "Lone Survivor," based on the true story of four Navy SEALs who were ambushed by the Taliban in the mountains of Afghanistan during a 2005 mission.

in the craggy mountains of Afghanistan's Kunar province. As part of Operation Red Wings, Luttrell and three fellow SEALs were positioned on a hillside, tracking a Taliban commander in the village below, when they suddenly encountered a few local shepherds. Their agonized decision on what to do with those shepherds, one of them a teenager, led to a string of events that ultimately resulted in 19 American deaths.

Of course, the title, "Lone Survivor," and the fact that Luttrell is played by the movie's star (Mark Wahlberg, in a strong and moving performance) tells you much of what's going to happen

from the get-go. But that doesn't hurt the film's immediacy and power. In fact, you might have a hard time sitting still.

Berg opens with footage of real Navy SEAL training and the extremes it reaches — some might call it unnecessary and overly worshipful, but for people who don't know a lot about the SEALs, it's helpful and effective. We're also given a sense of the lighthearted camaraderie at the military base, in between operations, as the men joke about wives and girlfriends back home, or compete in foot races. One of the SEALs worries about how to afford a wedding present for his bride. The veterans engage in a

little good-natured ribbing of a new arrival.

But all lightness disappears suddenly, and for good. Soon, Luttrell is hunkered in the mountains with his comrades: Michael Murphy (Taylor Kitsch), Danny Dietz (Emile Hirsch), and Matt "Axe" Axelson (Ben Foster). All seems to be going well until the moment they encounter the villagers; the ensuing debate is a painful one. Do they let them go and risk certain discovery? Or do they "terminate" the problem? The men also touch on a heavier question: What connection, in a deeper sense, do these shepherds have with the enemy?

But a decision comes, and then

### New on base

"Lone Survivor" is playing at the following facilities:

**Europe**  
Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baunholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella and Vicenza.

### Pacific

Atsugi, Misawa, Showboat, Village, Fleet, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Putnam, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Kunsan and Osan.

**Online:** lonesurvivorfilm.com

the battle, with the men literally falling down the mountainside, smashing repeatedly into rocks, their bodies gashed and broken. Several of them fight while shot and gravely wounded. One virtually sacrifices himself to call for help. A rescue effort goes catastrophically badly.

And then comes the amazing end to the story: How, and with whose help, Luttrell manages to survive to tell his tale. Though it's a matter of record, we'll keep the suspense alive here.

At the end, we see photos of the actual casualties of Operation Red Wings. It does not seem gratuitous, and no further explanation or exposition is given, or needed. Again, the best thing about Berg's film is its simplicity.

"Lone Survivor" is rated R for strong bloody war violence and pervasive language. Running time: 121 minutes.

## 'The Legend of Hercules': All muscle, no heavy lifting

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

It's "Clash of the Titans" without Titans, a "Gladiator" with nobody to root for and a "Samson" without a proper "Delilah." At times, with its stiff, charisma-impaired cast, its digital sets and slow-motion slaughter, "The Legend of Hercules" has a whiff of the Aegian stables about it — if you catch my drift.

The rest of the time, this star vehicle for "Twilight" lesser light Kellan Lutz rises to adequate — an ancient Greece action pic that benefits by coming out before "Pompeii," before "300: Rise of an Empire" and long before Brett Ratner's summer spectacle titled, um, "Hercules." A parade of carnage without blood, romance without heat, stilted dialogue and male cleavage, at its best it's still veering as all get-out even to those with a high tolerance for the cinema of the gods.

Not to say that it contorts Greek mythology beyond recognition. It is. This Renny Harlin-directed origin story is about Hercules before he knew he was Hercules. His mother, Queen Alcmene (Roxanne McKee),

### New on base

"The Legend of Hercules" is playing at:

#### Europe

Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunsum.

#### Pacific

Misawa, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Putnam, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Kunsan and Osan.

**Online:** hercules3dmovie.com

so hates her war-mad husband that she prays for a means of bringing him down. Here, wife to Zeus, promises her a baby conceived by the god. And that lad, called Alcides, doesn't know that the cruel King Amphitryon (Scott Adkins) isn't his real dad.

Dad had his suspicions, and lavishes his attention on the inferior first-born son Iphicles (Liam Garrigan). Meanwhile, Alcides (Lutz) falls for the bland but pretty Princess Hebe

(Gaia Weiss). But she's the princess the king wants Iphicles to marry.

Alcides/Hercules gets banished for trying to run off with the princess — and as she is to marry "three moons hence," he'd better get cracking — gladiating his way from Egypt to Sicily to the MMA Greek Octagon finals so he can win back the lady and avenge himself on those wayward relatives.

Armies besiege digital fortresses, digital triremes plow through the Mediterranean, and slow-motion sword fights — with stabbing, impalings and virtually no blood — fill the screen.

This "Legend" isn't legendary, and the look is kind of cut-rate. But the 3-D is put to good use in many battles. "The Legend of Hercules" makes you appreciate the real sets and real locations of "Troy," the real movie stars cast in it and the more convincing digital warships that sweep across Homer's "Wine Dark Sea" in search of myth and mayhem to those several thousand years — and several Greek-myth movies — ago.

"The Legend of Hercules" is rated PG-13 for sequences of intense combat action and violence, and for some sensuality. Running time: 96 minutes.

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**THUR JAN 16 - WED JAN 22**

**Amelung 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13):** Thur 17:30, Fri 15:30, 22:30, Mon 15:30

**Frozen (PG):** Thur 16:00, Fri 15:30, Sat 14:30, Sun 15:30

**Kick Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG-13):** Fri 15:30, 17:30, 20:15, 22:30, Sat 16:45, 20:30, 22:30, Sun 18:45, 20:30, Mon 15:30, 17:30, 20:30, Tue & Wed 16:00, 17:30, 20:30

**In 2D: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13):** Thur 20:00, Sat & Sun 14:00

**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13):** Fri 14:00, Sat 14:00, Sun 16:30, Mon 15:30

**Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R):** Fri 22:45, Sat 22:30

**The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG):** Sat 14:00, Sun 14:00

**The Wolf of Wall Street (R):** Thur 17:15, Fri 15:30, 17:15, Sat & Sun 17:00, Mon 15:30, 17:15, Tue & Wed 17:15

Scan Here or visit: www.broadwaykino.com/mmc

Check movie listings for base theaters at [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)



# WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

"The Order: 1886" introduces players to a unique vision of Victorian-era London, where man uses advanced technology to battle a powerful and ancient foe.

Photos courtesy of Sony



## New for PS4

### Gamers will be glued to these thrilling titles

By MICHAEL DARNELL  
Stars and Stripes

The PlayStation 4 has been in the hands of gamers for a little more than two months now and while the launch titles were fairly underwhelming, the releases of 2014 are looking to make up for it. There are quite a few potentially great games coming to Sony's entertainment juggernaut, so to help you separate the good from the bad, we're taking a quick look at five of the best-looking PS4 exclusives coming your way.

#### inFamous: Second Son

This third entry in the very popular, open-world superhero game series is looking to change up the formula a bit with a new protagonist, a new power set and a whole new city to explore. While the previous two "inFamous" games have focused on dour, reluctant hero Cole McGrath coming to terms with his newfound electricity powers, "Second Son" is giving us Delsin Rowe — a younger hero who seems to revel in his smoke-based abilities. If nothing else, having a protagonist who isn't so grumpy will at least ensure a refreshing narrative shift. A new set of abilities for gamers might be a bigger deal. The trailers released so far show that Rowe's superpowers allow for differing methods of traversing the world — a slightly dystopian Seattle — and offers a veritable toolbox of combat abilities to keep the action pumping. We're very excited to see the final version of this game, developed by Sucker Punch. See an introductory trailer at [tinyurl.com/njn6bzw](http://tinyurl.com/njn6bzw)

#### The Order: 1886

From what we've seen of the trailer, "The Order" is the first game that looks like it's really testing the PlayStation 4's visual abilities. Despite this being the first unique intellectual property that developer Ready at Dawn has tackled, the previews are already exciting. The game is based in an alternate universe where werewolves and steam engines exist side by side. In King Arthur and his Round Table, and you've got a pretty



Enjoy your superhuman powers in a locked-down Seattle, where the choices you make will impact everyone around you, in "inFamous: Second Son."



"Driveclub" is a next-generation, socially connected racing game that captures the heart and soul of car culture and the passion it creates.

unique premise. Ready at Dawn is clearly striving to make this the graphical blockbuster of the year. The announcement trailer shows incredibly detailed textures and creepy, atmospheric places. What's most impressive of what we've seen so far is that the game's visuals are made on the fly — not the product of pre-rendered CGI. The premise and visuals make this a game to keep your eye on for PS4 owners. Now, we just need details on how the game plays. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/lg3cabb](http://tinyurl.com/lg3cabb)

#### Daylight

This game is the answer for anyone upset about how console horror games have become action titles in recent years. The best horror games used to center on the sense that you're always in danger, but modern games moved away from that by giving players access to arsenals the size of a small country's. In "Daylight," however, the developers at Zombie Studios have an unnamed heroine with no machine guns and no swords — no weapons of any kind, actually. All she has is her wits and a dying cellphone that doubles as her only source of light. Stuck in the

abandoned hospital, she finds herself lost, stripped of all memory and with hidden horrors lurking in every shadow. The game is procedurally generated, which means that you'll never encounter the same level twice. That approach can open up replay opportunities for enthusiastic players. It can also mean somewhat bland level designs, but Zombie Studios' creative head Jared Gerritzen seems very confident that the world they're building for "Daylight" will be varied enough to keep players interested. Official website: [playdaylight.com](http://playdaylight.com)

#### The Witness

This is the follow-up game from Jonathan Blow, the creator of the puzzling, touching and entirely amazing "Braid" — and if that were the only thing it had going for it, we'd be looking forward to it. But it's not simple pedigree that is the selling point of "The Witness." Taking a page from games like "Myst" and "Portal," this game sets players on an island that serves as the backdrop for a world full of puzzles and mysteries. Players progress by solving the mind-benders, opening up

other areas of the island and more of the game's story. If that sounds a bit basic, it's important to note that "Braid," for all of its accolades, was technically just a platformer with some time mechanics. But Blow's initial game was far more than the sum of its parts. Telling a rich story was — and continues to be — his real goal, and using the gameplay to enhance the storytelling. Early hands-on previews with "The Witness" say Blow's dedication to merging gameplay and storytelling are well on display here, all accompanied by a fantastic soundtrack. For fans of either "Braid," or puzzle games in general, "The Witness" is an early reason to be excited over the PlayStation 4, as this title is set to come out within the next few months. Visit [tinyurl.com/mnn9lsew](http://tinyurl.com/mnn9lsew)

#### Driveclub

Last, but not least, we come to "Driveclub," a racing game that emphasizes team building and social interaction as much as burning rubber and tuning suspensions. The club moniker is very intentional, as the game is based entirely on the concept of forming a driving team and competing against other such clubs across the world and in a variety of challenges, races and courses designed specifically to test teamwork and not only individual driving abilities. Developer Evolution Studios created the much underrated "MotorStorm" series, so the races themselves should certainly be up to par with games like "Gran Turismo" and "Grid," but the studio's promise to offer roles to players who might not be the cream of the crop on the track is an intriguing one. If they can pull off that aspect, they might be able to give more casual fans something to look forward to, even if the meat of the game seems to be centered on a highly competitive club versus club mechanics. It is, after all, a racing game, and competition is what the genre is all about. To that end, Evolution promises challenges that will feature thousands of individual drivers and enough variation in the tracks and cars to keep dedicated fans interested and competing for years to come. Visit [tinyurl.com/kqvpqpk](http://tinyurl.com/kqvpqpk)

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Many more staff-written game reviews at [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)



## WEEKEND

## Europe

## THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE

GET IN THE SWING:  
Vienna ball season

Festive balls in Vienna, Austria, are a longstanding tradition. In January and February, ball season peaks with more than 450 balls throughout the Austrian capital.

This weekend the city hosts the Flower Ball on Friday at the Town Hall and the Gala of the Viennese Industry on Saturday at the Imperial Palace. On Thursday, the Ball of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra takes place at the Grand Hall of the Musikverein.

Here is a sampling of other hot tickets during ball season. All are held in the Imperial Palace unless otherwise noted.

**Jan. 27:** Ball of the Green Cross (Hunters' Ball);

**Jan. 31:** University of Agricultural Sciences Ball;

**Feb. 1:** Pharmacists' Ball;

**Feb. 21:** Ball of the Viennese Coffee House Owners;

**Feb. 27:** Opera Ball, State Opera;

**Feb. 28:** Bonbon-Ball, Konzerthaus;

**March 1:** Lawyers' Ball;

**March 3:** Rudolfina Masked Ball;

**March 4:** Elmyer School of Dancing Ball.

Tickets range from 50 to 250 euros. See details at [wien.info/en](http://wien.info/en) under "Welcome to the ball season."

Dancers twirl at a past Opera Ball, a popular event during the Vienna ball season. Almost all balls are open to the public.

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

## Winter fun in Bavaria

Winter's here, so why not embrace it? Should nature cooperate, lovers of snow sports and activities will find plenty to do in Bavaria.

This weekend, the resort area of Bad Hindelang plays host to an international dog sled race of more than 100 mushers from throughout Europe, 500 dogs, and many a warmly dressed spectator.

They turn out to watch the races compete along tracks ranging from roughly four to 12 miles long. On some courses, up to nine dogs can pull a single sled, and teams can reach speeds of up to 28 miles per hour. Organizers suggest the most exciting stretches of the courses are those on the slopes near the Sonnenhang lift and the stretch leading into the village of Unteroch.

The races begin both Saturday and Sunday around 10 a.m. and finish sometime around 3 p.m. The tennis court area in Unteroch serves as start and end point. Adult entry to watch the races costs 4 euros; children enter for free. For more information, see [natterlich-hindelang.de/aktuelles/infos.html](http://natterlich-hindelang.de/aktuelles/infos.html).

Bavaria is also the hot spot for other forms of winter fun and challenges. Cross-country skiers who have the rhythm down can see how they fare in Oberammergau Feb. 1-2 when the König



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at [stripes.com/travel/europe-travel](http://stripes.com/travel/europe-travel)

Ludwig Lauf takes place.

This race offers two tracks, one nearly 15 miles long and the other 31 miles long. Competitors may choose either classic or freestyle skiing styles.

Entry fees are 35 euros for the shorter run and 57 euros for the longer race. The race comprises part of Worldloppet and German Ski Association cross country events. Read up on the race at <http://koenig-ludwig-lauf.com/index.php/home-126.html>.

Perhaps hockey was the sport of your youth? Garmisch-Partenkirchen is the site of Pond Hockey Cup Feb. 8-9, an event that tries to bring the sport back to its roots.

Matches will be played at the Riessensee, which was host to Olympic ice hockey competition in 1936. Participation is open to all those over age 18, both ama-

teurs and professionals, who will play in separate groups.

Teams can consist of men, women or both, with a maximum of four and a maximum of six players. Four people play in matches that last 15 minutes in the group phase and 10 minutes in the elimination phase. No goalkeepers, slap shots or checks are permitted.

Entry costs 125 euros per team. Fans who turn out to support the players will find stands selling culinary treats and games for the kids, along with a party on the ice Saturday evening. For information, including terms and conditions of entry, see [gapa.de/pondhockey.html](http://gapa.de/pondhockey.html).

Dublin's  
TradFest

One of the highlights on Dublin's party calendar comes around each January when the Tradfest pulls droves of music lovers into that part of the city known as the Temple Bar district. But what exactly is a trad? No more than a shortened form of the word "traditional."

First held in 2005, it's a relatively new festival, but is today regarded as one of the country's

biggest and best festivals for traditional Irish music and culture. This year's Tradfest kicks off Wednesday, runs over a five-day period and includes more than 200 events, many of which take place in iconic venues such as Dublin City Hall and St. Patrick's Cathedral.

In addition to dozens of ticketed concerts and performances, there will be outdoor stages offering free music, street performers, Irish dancers, pipe bands, films and more. A special section for kids offers activities

from banjo workshops to petting friendly farm animals.

Those attending Irish dance showcase performances at the Temple Bar Hotel can take part in *ceili* dance workshops afterward for 10 euros (about \$14) per person. One segment of the festival, The Music Trail, offers exclusive performances by Irish folk music legends at some of the city's best pubs, many of which will offer free entry.

For tickets, band information and general festival info, visit [templebartrad.com](http://templebartrad.com).



Courtesy of templebartrad.com

Dublin's annual TradFest offers unique concerts set in the intimate surroundings of some of the finest and most historic bars and venues in Temple Bar. The event is designed to get visitors up close to the icons of Irish folk music. Above: Traditional pipers march through the city streets.

Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)



## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

# Bonjour, welcome to Paris

## Greeters introduce visitors to the city they know and love as locals

By LEAH LARKIN

Special to Stars and Stripes

It was like stepping into another world, of elegance and refinement of another era. Tins of teas — some 500 kinds from 35 countries — sat on floor-to-ceiling shelves. The ambience was serenely inviting, reminiscent of an Old World apothecary. Teapots, tea jellies and chocolates were also for sale. The aromas were heavenly.

I am a coffee drinker, but I was in awe of this amazing place in Paris, albeit disappointed that taking photos was not permitted. Thanks to Claudine Chevrel, we visited Mariage Frères, a Paris institution since 1854. The company has several shops in the city and throughout the world, but the one we visited in the Marais district is the “mother” store and the oldest in the city.

Chevrel is one of about 300 Paris Greeters, volunteers who give tours of their neighborhoods. There is no charge for the tours, which are offered in several languages, but donations are welcome.

My husband, Bob, and I have been to Paris many times, but this was appealing, a chance to get to know not only a Parisian but also one of the city's numerous intriguing *arrondissements* (administrative districts). Chevrel, speaking English, shared her love and enthusiasm for her corner of Paris, the Marais, with us.

She's lived in the district since 1972, long before it became chic, trendy and expensive. She knows it well — the history, monuments, restaurants and shops.

“I love being a greeter,” she

said. “I always meet interesting people. It's always different.”

Le Marais, literally “the swamp,” was mostly farmland in the Middle Ages, producing vegetables for this city on the Seine River. By the 16th century, the nobility and upper middle class bought up the land and built great estates. For the next couple of centuries, family palaces and grand buildings found their home in the Marais.

We walked by many of those grandiose structures, including the Hotel de Sens, one of the oldest civil buildings in Paris, dating to 1455. It now houses a library where Chevrel works part time. At the Hotel de Sully, a 17th-century mansion, she took us inside to admire the ceiling, a masterpiece of painted wooden beams.

She led us down the Rue du Figuier (street of fig trees) and told us that even in the Middle Ages, fig trees lined the street.

“They are like a talisman,” she said. “When one dies, another is planted.”

Chevrel talked about Andre Malraux, a French novelist who was minister of culture during the presidency of Charles de Gaulle (1959-1969). Malraux inaugurated an initiative to

clean up the blackened facades of notable buildings in the city. He made the Marais the first “safeguarded” section of Paris in an effort to protect its places of cultural significance.

Many Marais buildings have been restored and turned into museums, including the Hotel Sale, now the site of the Picasso Museum; the Hotel Carnavalet, where the Paris Historical Museum finds a home; and the Hotel Donon, home to the Cognac-Jay Museum. The Centre Georges Pompidou, with the National Museum of Modern Art and one of the world's most important cultural institutions, is located in



Paris Greeter Claudine Chevrel has lived in the Marais district of Paris since 1972, long before it became chic, trendy and expensive.



Englishman Richard Wallace gave Paris money in the 19th century to erect water fountains like this one.

Beaubourg, the western part of the Marais.

The Marais has a large Jewish community and one of the largest gay communities in Europe. We especially liked the Jewish area — full of tempting delis and bakeries. Numerous shops tout the “best falafel.” Chevrel says the best is at the restaurant Chez Marianne, where Bob bought a thick slice of nut strudel — it offers 12 kinds for 3 euros per slice.

We walked past numerous art galleries and trendy boutiques.

“I prefer the Marais 10 years ago. It used to be a real neighborhood,” Chevrel said. There were lots of local stores and groceries, she explained, but now many have been replaced by expensive shops.

Before, “everyone knew everyone,” she said. “Now lots of foreigners who don't live here year round have bought apartments.”

Our guide made sure we saw a Wallace fountain. Richard Wallace was a rich Englishman who lived in Paris in the 19th century. He could not find a place to drink water, so he made a donation to the city to install water fountains throughout Paris.

“People still drink from them,” she said. The fountains, designed by Charles-Auguste Lebourg in the form of small cast-iron sculptures, are scattered throughout the city.

We took a break midway during our two-hour-plus tour, both to rest and to chat.

“I always meet interesting people who want to see Paris in a different way,” she said. “Americans prefer this type of tour. They like to meet Parisians. They ask lots of questions, about everyday life, taxes, schools.”

Our tour ended at the Place

## KNOW & GO

### Go on a tour

Sign up at [parisgreeters.fr](http://parisgreeters.fr) preferably several weeks before your visit. Specify your interests and the date and time you are available. You can also request a specific district to visit if you wish.

### Costs

Tours are free, but donations are accepted.

### Food

- **The Caruso restaurant** is at 3 Rue de Turenne, phone: (+33) (0) 142770698, [ristorantecaruso.fr](http://ristorantecaruso.fr).

- **Chez Marianne**, 2 Rue des Hospitaliers Saint-Gervais, (+33) (0) 142721886;

- **Cafe Louis Philippe**, 66 Quai de l'Hotel de ville, (+33) (0)142722942;

- **Mariage Frères**, 30-32-35 rue du Bourg-Tibourg, (+33) (0)143471854, [mariagefreres.com](http://mariagefreres.com).

### Accommodations

We always stay at a charming *chambre d'hôte* (bed and breakfast) in our favorite neighborhood, Saint-Germain-des-Près; one room with a double bed, breakfast included, costs 90 euros per night. Contact owner Genevieve Cuirot at [gcuirot@free.fr](mailto:gcuirot@free.fr).

— Leah Larkin



PHOTOS BY LEAH LARKIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

Paris' city hall, housed in the Hotel de Ville, a neo-Renaissance building dating from the 19th century, was just one of the landmarks pointed out by Paris Greeter Claudine Chevrel in the Marais district.

des Vosges, the oldest planned square in Paris with 36 symmetrical houses and ground-floor arcades. Author Victor Hugo lived in one of the buildings, which now serves as a museum dedicated to his life and works.

We left Chevrel and set off to find her favorite restaurant, Le Louis Philippe, a traditional brasserie, which we had passed during our walk.

“From the upstairs room, there is a great view of Notre Dame,” she said.

En route we came across Caruso. As we have a weakness for all things Italian and there are few Italian restaurants in southern France where we live, it was our lunch stop. *Buonissimo!* Exquisite pasta, and Bob's dessert, Cassata Siciliana, was deliciously decadent.

We'll try Le Louis Philippe next time we're in Paris, and we will definitely sign up for another Paris Greeter tour.

Leah Larkin lives in France and can be contacted through her website, [leahlarkin.com](http://leahlarkin.com), or blog, <http://talesandtravel.com>.



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



PHOTOS BY ERIC A. BROWN/Stars and Stripes

A sample of the cakes and other sweets offered at Café Maldaner, a favorite coffeehouse and patisserie in Wiesbaden, Germany.

# After Hours: Germany

By ERIC A. BROWN  
Stars and Stripes

If you're looking for a romantic venue for Valentine's Day, consider the charming ambience of downtown Wiesbaden, Germany's, Café Maldaner, arguably the city's most beloved coffeehouse and patisserie.

Situated in the middle of Wiesbaden's pedestrian district in a beautiful historic building, 150 years of tradition and history are quickly appreciated upon entering the heavy glass-and-tiger-oak revolving door.

A long glass showcase displaying delicious edible masterpieces immediately tempts customers. One glance at the chandeliers and dark wood wainscoting, and it's apparent that this is not yet another modern coffeehouse filled with countless laptop screens.

We were led to a soft-lit corner that offered comfy leather seating. My wife and I immediately enjoyed Café Maldaner's romantic yet conversation-friendly seating arrangement.

Being one to never forfeit an opportunity to try a warm apple strudel, I ordered my piece with whipped cream and homemade ice cream. My wife planned to order the chocolate mousse but decided instead on a homemade waffle with chocolate sauce. Both

## CAFÉ MALDANER

Address: Marktstrasse 34, Wiesbaden, Germany.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays and German holidays.

Dress: Casual. Costs: Specialty teas such as organic green jasmine and summer berry may be ordered by the pot, or *Kännchen* in German, or by the cup. A *Kännchen* of tea costs 4.80 euros; a cup of tea costs 2.60 euros.

Coffee prices vary widely; they start at 2.50 euros for a cup of regular filtered coffee

and go up to just under 5 euros for a *Kännchen* of Café Crème.

Breakfast entrees include pancakes for 5.90 euros and "any-time-of-the-day" warm apple strudel with vanilla sauce for 4.50 euros.

Daily lunch specials average 8.50 euros. Soups and salads are also available.

Information: Telephone: (+49) (0) 611-305214; fax: (+49) (0) 611-301948; website: cafe-maldaner.de; email: cafemaldaner@t-online.de.

—Eric A. Brown

of these treats were complemented with some seriously delicious coffee. No paper cups here, folks!

The strudel was everything I imagined it would be — but I didn't expect how delicious the bourbon vanilla ice cream served on the side turned out to be. The ice cream's creaminess was unbelievable — the subtle bourbon notes and specks of vanilla throughout made me wish I had ordered a big bowl of it on

the side.

Likewise, the waffle was light and crisp. The chocolate sauce was the perfect consistency and was elegantly served in a silver-plated boat. Waffle meets chocolate ... need I say more?

Both of these sweet treats fell below the 5-euro mark (about \$7), and believe me, we would have paid more.

But Café Maldaner is about more than coffee and the treats;



Diana Morciano prepares cake for a diner at Café Maldaner.

it's about ambience and the appreciation for traditional coffeehouses that offer high-quality service that is hard to come by these days. Add to that first-class service by wait staff in period uniforms and 150-year-old chandeliers casting a soft glow.

I couldn't resist taking home a slice of Maldaner's "house torte" and a chocolate-covered praline torte (to share with the kids, of course). Even the takeout packaging was elegant. The burgundy bag, paired with elegant gold baker's wrap, both tastefully imprinted with Maldaner's classy insignia, would make a great gift — especially when filled with any number of delicious treats available for takeout.

Maldaner is certainly at the top of my list for planning this year's Valentine's Day evening. Whether you're with that someone special, or just out shopping with friends, I highly recommend stopping in for a truly excellent cup of coffee, a sweet treat and a memorable European experience.

brown.eric@stripes.com

## Dumplings top tasty veggie stew

By LISA ABRAHAM  
Akron Beacon Journal

The writing team of Bruce Weinstein and Mark Scarbrough hit upon a winning formula with their new book, "The Great American Slow Cooker Book" (\$25, soft cover, Clarkson Potter).

For every recipe in the book, they offer a list of ingredients in three sizes to fit a 2-to-3½-quart, 4-to-5½-quart or 6-to-8-quart slow cooker.

It's the answer to everyone who ever found their cooker was too big or too small for a recipe.

This vegetable stew gets a topping of cheesy drop dumplings. The recipe here is for a 4-to-5½-quart slow cooker.

### VEGETABLE STEW WITH CHEDDAR DUMPLINGS

#### Ingredients:

#### For the stew:

2½ cups no-salt-added canned diced tomatoes  
1¼ lbs. cauliflower, cut into small florets  
¾ lb. zucchini, diced  
6 oz. green beans, chopped (about 1½ cups)  
1 medium yellow onion, chopped  
¾ cup green peas, thawed  
frozen or freshly fresh  
½ lb. low-sodium vegetable broth  
1 tbsp. dried basil  
½ tsp. dried marjoram  
½ tsp. salt

#### For the dumplings:

1½ cups all-purpose flour  
¾ tsp. baking powder  
¾ tsp. dry mustard (mustard powder)  
½ tsp. salt  
3 tsp. very cold, unsalted butter, cut into little bits  
1½ oz. (about 1½ cup) mild cheddar cheese, shredded  
¼ cup milk

#### Directions:

Combine the tomatoes, cauliflower, zucchini, green beans, onion, peas, broth, basil, marjoram and salt in the slow cooker. Cover and cook on low for 5 hours, or until the stew is beginning to meld with lots of sauce around the vegetables.

Whisk the flour, baking powder, mustard and salt in a large bowl. Cut in the butter with a pastry cutter or a fork, working the dough repeatedly through the times until the mixture resembles coarse but dry sand.

Stir in the cheese and milk until a wet dough forms. Drop by rounded tablespoons all over the top of the stew until they are about half submerged in the stew.

Cover and cook on high for 1 hour, or until the dumplings are set and the sauce is bubbling around them.

Makes four to six servings.



The coffeehouse serves warm apple strudel with homemade vanilla ice cream and whipped cream throughout the day.

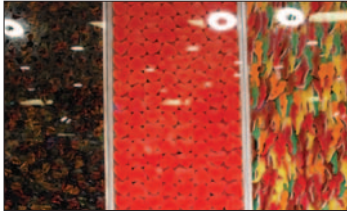


The writer's wife enjoyed the waffle with chocolate sauce and whipped cream. Waffles can be ordered with hot cherries or raspberries or with a large scoop of homemade ice cream.



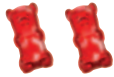
# WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe



While Haribo offers a variety of candy at its flagship location in Bonn, Germany, from Happy Colas to sour cherries, the company's trademark gummy bear is a favorite among fans.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY BROOME/Stars and Stripes



# Oh, how sweet it is!



## Maker of popular, colorful gummy candy, Haribo headquarters in Bonn, Germany

BY GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

**H**aribo gummies are ubiquitous around Germany. The colorful treats cluster around cash registers at gas stations, kiosks and corner markets. Larger stores often have whole aisles dedicated to the ever-expanding line of elastic treats.

So is a Haribo company store really necessary?

The short answer is no.

The slightly longer answer is no, but who cares?

Gummies aren't meant to be necessary. They're simply meant to be fun.

The German

sweets scene is saturated with Kinder eggs and Milka chocolate bars, cinnamon-sugar crepes and powdered sugar waffles. Bakery cases overflow with decadent desserts and other sweets masquerading as breakfast. In warmer weather, the engineering marvel that is spaghetti eis leads its frozen colleagues into a place of prominence on German pattees.

And yet Haribo's plucky gummy bear ambles confidently through this landscape on its stubby, spongy feet, cultivating and serving a vast and loyal fan base.

If you're among those fans, you likely already have a favorite or two from among the long list of familiar and offbeat gummy products Haribo churns out. I'm a sucker for Happy Colas, a bottle-shaped, sugar-dusted confection that tastes like Coca-Cola with a lemon wedge, and marshmallow-coated blue sharks.

My wife is more of a purist, preferring gummy worms, cherries and the stalwart bears. My kids, meanwhile, don't say no to any of the above.

True gummy aficionados are always open to discovering and experiencing new varieties. It's in that regard that the Haribo company store proves, if not necessary, at least valuable.



The Haribo store in Bonn, Germany, is billed as the world's first all-Haribo retail establishment.

My family and I visited the flagship location as part of a sprawling road trip in the days before Christmas. Billed as the world's first all-Haribo retail establishment, the two-story, 200-square-meter store opened in November in the scenic heart of Bonn, the former capital of West Germany and site of the founding of the Haribo corporation. Visitors winding through will find the colorful facade of the Haribo store bursting from its historic surroundings in the imposing shadow of the Bonn Münster, a cathedral dating to the 11th century.

Inside there is an impressive collection of packaged gummies and various Haribo-branded novelty items, including board games, umbrellas, toy cars and puzzles. Vintage pictures and old Haribo marketing materials dot the walls, providing an overview of the company's evolution through the years. A staircase offers access to a small but worthwhile gallery of artsy photographs featuring

Haribo products in sophisticated scenes, like a gummy cherry as garnish on a flute of bubbling champagne. It's a welcome respite from the bustle below, and the dose of culture, glib as it may be, eases the guilt of a visit otherwise based entirely on consumption and sugar.

But don't kid yourself — you're here for the sugar. The store's main attraction — the pick-and-mix bar — fulfills that wish. Dozens of bins of gummies are arranged in two semicircles occupying the building's entire back wall, with tongs, shovels, scales and bags provided for customers to indulge their particular tastes. It's here where the gummy fan can load up on trusted favorites and sample the unfamiliar. The kids were thrilled to discover Pasta Basta, a thin, sugary, rainbow-colored strip perfectly suited for tearing and sharing.

The pay-by-weight model can quickly get out of control for the customer, but the price here is reasonable — a mere 69 euro cents for 100

grams. My family and I bought a mixed bag for ourselves, another for my office and a few off-the-shelf packages and escaped for under 20 euros.

I wouldn't, and didn't, drive the two hours to Bonn from Kaiserslautern for the Haribo store alone. But it's a great first stop on a Bonn itinerary alongside the Beethoven house and the city's museums and churches.

Just grab your bag of gummies and you're on your way. You don't need them, but you'll be glad you have them.

broomegregory@stripes.com  
Twitter: @broomestripes



Stars and Stripes

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Am Neutor 3, Bonn  
From Kaiserslautern, take Autobahn 63, then A61 toward Koblenz. Exit onto A565 toward Bonn, then take the Bonn-Poppoldorf exit for the B9. Stay on the B9 into the city center.

Affordable and convenient parking is found under the Galeria Kaufhof shopping center on Münsterplatz; the store is just a couple minutes' walk away.

### TIMES

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sundays.

### COSTS

No charge for admission. Bags of assorted gummies from the pick-and-mix wall run 69 euro cents per 100 grams. Packaged sweets also available.

— Gregory Broome

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

## Special events are set to draw visitors

The Associated Press

The Olympics, commemorations of World War I, D-Day and the fall of the Berlin Wall are some of the events that will spotlight destinations in the coming months.

The Winter Olympics, Feb. 7-23, take place in Sochi, a Russian Black Sea resort. The indoor events will be held in ice arenas on the coast, while skiing and snowboarding will be in the Caucasus Mountains 30 miles away.

With its subtropical climate and lush greenery, the coastal area of Sochi has long been a popular destination; some elaborate worker resorts from the Stalinist era remain, and new resorts are under construction.

• The summer of 2014 marks a century since World War I was triggered by the June 28, 1914 assassination of the Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, now the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Events are planned across Europe to commemorate the centenary (1914.org), and tour operators are offering itineraries visiting places connected to the war.

• June 6 is the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, which marked a turning point in defeating Hitler in World War II. Past milestone anniversaries have drawn veterans of the invasion, but that generation is rapidly dwindling. President Obama, Queen Elizabeth and other heads of state have been



AP

Events are planned across Europe to mark a century since World War I began. Above are the graves of German soldiers at the German Military Cemetery, Soldatenfriedhof, in Menen, Belgium.

invited to mark the solemn day on the Normandy coast.

• Nov. 9 will mark 25 years since the Berlin Wall was breached, a powerful moment in ending communism in Eastern Europe and the Cold War. The wall, built in 1961, not only physically cut East Berlin off from the West, but also symbolized the division between Western Europe and communist-controlled Eastern bloc countries.

The wall was completely torn down in 1990, but its destruction began in 1989. In the years since, reunified Berlin has become a trendy tourism capital. Events and exhibits are planned to mark the 25th anniversary, including an installation of illuminated

balloons on a 7.5-mile path where the city was once divided.

• Scotland hosts its year-long "Homecoming," inviting emigres and their descendants to return for clan gatherings and other events, including a reenactment of the Battle of Bannockburn, an important victory 700

years ago in the Wars of Scottish Independence. The Homecoming is held every four years.

• In Holland, the Mauritshuis museum reopens in June in The Hague. This small but important museum, housed in a 17th-century palace, is home to Vermeer's masterpiece, "Girl with a Pearl

Earring."

• In Norway, the Geirangerfjord will get some additional visitors as Adventures By Disney adds the destination to a new itinerary inspired by the movie "Frozen." The film's fantasy kingdom of Arendelle was based on the fjord.

# Restaurant Directory

<b>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area</b>  Since 1978 Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nikolastr. 8, 92637 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-33895 Fax. 0961-34073 www.peking-weiden.de	<b>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area</b>  Open 11am-2pm & 5am-11pm Wiesstr. 1, 92637 Weiden Tel. 0961-20633155 zanecha-weiden.de	<b>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</b>  Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Sahr Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brennhaus-kastel.de
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## WEEKEND

## Pacific

## THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



SHIZUO KAMATASHI/AP

SEE THIS:  
sumo wrestling

Sumo grand champion Harumafuji of Mongolia performed his ring entry forms at Meiji Shrine in Tokyo on Jan. 8. The Shinto ritual is part of the annual New Year's celebrations at the shrine. The Grand Sumo Tournament — January Basho in Tokyo is now through Jan. 26 at Ryogoku Kokugikan. For more: sumo.or.jp. Installations also offer tours to sumo events. Camp Fuji has one Jan. 18; Yokosuka on Jan. 25; and Atsugi ITT and Camp Zama on Feb. 9. For more on sumo, go to [tinyurl.com/stripessumo](http://tinyurl.com/stripessumo).

## IN CONCERT

## Japan

**TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND:** Tokyo, Feb. 6, 7 p.m., Shibuya Kokaido; Feb. 10, 7 p.m., Shibuya AX, 7,700-8,700 yen; Udo 03-3402-5999.

**SHAGGY:** Tokyo, Feb. 8, 2:15 & 7 p.m., Shinagawa Prince Hotel Stella Ball, 8,400 yen; 03-5785-1020.

**NINE INCH NAILS:** Tokyo, Feb. 25 & 26, 7 p.m., Studio Coast, 9,000 yen (standing); Creamer Productions 03-3499-6669.

**BOB DYLAN:** Tokyo, March 31, April 1, 3, 4, 7 & 8, 7 p.m., DiverCity, 13,000 yen, 1st floor standing; Udo 03-3402-5999.

**SUZANNE VEGA:** Tokyo, April 7, 7:30 p.m., Ex Theater Roppongi, 7,500 yen; Smash 03-3444-6751.

**JEFF BECK:** Sendai, April 13, 5 p.m., Iwate Kenmin, 10,500 yen; News Promotion 022-266-7555.

## South Korea

**ILLINOIRE:** Jan. 25, 6 p.m., Gwanju May 18 Memorial Culture center, Minju Hall, 50,000 won; Daejeon, Feb.



JOEL RYAN, INVISION/AP

Get ready to rock: The Rolling Stones will perform in concert in Tokyo on Feb. 26 and March 4 and 6 at Tokyo Dome.

7, 7:30 p.m., Chungnam National University Jeongsinhwa International Culture Hall, 50,000 won; tinyurl.com/3e6rwh.

**IL DIVO:** Seoul, Feb. 22, 7 p.m., Jamsil Indoor Stadium, 90,000-130,000-180,000-200,000-250,000 won; tinyurl.com/3e6rwh.

## EVENTS WITH FLOWERS

## Japan

**ATAMI CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Kanagawa prefecture):** Jan. 25-Feb. 16; view blossoms on Itokawa Promenade, along with traditional dance and entertainments, and illuminations 5-11 p.m.; [www.city.atami.shizuoka.jp](http://www.city.atami.shizuoka.jp).

**PEONY FESTIVAL (Tokyo):** Through Feb. 19, 9-30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; 3,200 peonies in 250 varieties at Ueno Toshogu Shrine.

**ATAMI PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Kanagawa prefecture):** Through March 9; plum blossoms in Atami are the earliest to bloom in Japan and celebrate the bloom at Atami Baien Koen (Plum Garden) in Atami city.

## Okinawa

**NAKIJIN CHERRY BLOSSOM**

**FESTIVAL:** Jan. 18-22; see illuminations and more at the ruins of Nakijin Castle; [tinyurl.com/mcagmas](http://tinyurl.com/mcagmas).

**YAEBAKE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL:** Jan. 18-Feb. 2; earliest cherry blossoms in Japan; Motobu-cho; [www.motobu-ka.com](http://www.motobu-ka.com).

**OKINAWA FLOWER CARNIVAL 2014:** Jan. 18-May 6; showcasing flowers; Shuri Castle Park, Okinawa Commemorative Government Park, Okinawa Kenritsu Budokan, Nakijin Castle Park and Yodokae Cherry Park.

**THE 52ND NAGO CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL:** Jan. 25 & 26; brass band, taiko (Japanese drums), folk songs and more at Nago Chuo Koen; [www.kanko.city.nago.okinawa.jp](http://www.kanko.city.nago.okinawa.jp).

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific

## WINTER FESTIVALS

## Japan

**FUJIKAWAGUCHI WINTER FIREWORKS (Yamanashi prefecture):**

weekends Jan. 18-Feb. 23, 8-8:30 p.m.; fireworks at Ohike Koen, located close to Kawaguchiko Ohashi (bridge) Minami intersection on southern shore of Lake Kawaguchi, five-minute drive from Kawaguchiko I.C.; 0555-72-3168.

**SAIKO (LAKE) SOFT RIME FESTIVAL (Yamanashi prefecture):**

Jan. 25-Feb. 2; giant ice sculptures on display with night illuminations at Saiko Yacho-no mori Koen, one of five lakes at the foot of Mount Fuji; 25-minute ride on Route 139 from Kawaguchiko IC on Chuo Express or a 50-minute a Fujiyuko bus ride from Kawaguchiko Station; free; 0555-72-3168.

**HIROSAKI WINTER FESTIVAL (Aomori prefecture):**

Jan. 25 & 26, until 9 p.m.; festival at Hirotsaki Apple Park features sledding, snowball battle, reading of fairy tales and more; 20-minute ride from JR Hirotsaki Station, free bus from JR Hirotsaki Station.

**YOKOHAMA REDBRICK WAREHOUSE ART & ICE SKATING:**

Through Feb. 23, 1-10 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. weekends; art with lights designed by Maki Kijima; 15-minute walk from JR Kannai Station; 300 yen adults, 400 yen kids and 500 yen for shoe rental.

**SORA NIWA ICE PARK - GINZA (Tokyo):**

Through March 2, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; ice skating rink on the roof of Matsuya Ginza Department Store, three-minute walk from Ginza Station on Hibiya and Ginza Lines; 2,100 yen



KTO NY

**LOTS TO DO: Inje Icefish Festival**

At this festival, Jan. 18-26, guests can sample icefish, try ice fishing, and play games such as human bowling on ice, ice soccer and tug-of-war on ice. The festival is at Soyangho Lake in Inje, Gangwon-do. For more: [tinyurl.com/otro4ua](http://tinyurl.com/otro4ua)

11 a.m.-5 p.m., 2,900 yen 5-10 p.m., 700 yen kids; [www.matsuya.com/foreigner/en](http://www.matsuya.com/foreigner/en)

**AKASAKA SACAS ICE SKATING**

**RINK (Tokyo):** Through March 2, noon-9 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m. weekends; illuminations starting 4 p.m.; Akasaka Station on Marunouchi Line

or eight-minute walk from Akasaka Mitsuke Station on Ginza Line; 1,000 yen adults, 500 yen children, plus 500 yen for shoe rentals; 03-3746-6666.

**FUJI-Q HIGHLAND ICE SKATING (Yamanashi prefecture):**

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**JIRISAN NAMWON BARAEBONG SNOWFLAKE FESTIVAL (Jeollabuk-do):**

Through Feb. 9; this event is in Unbong Herb Valley, known for snow-covered fields and a variety of winter activities including ice and snow sledding, snowman making, snowball fights; take express bus from Central City Terminal for Newton Express Terminal, then take a taxi to Jirisan Mountain Herb Valley; free; +82-2-1330; [tinyurl.com/pwjmseq](http://tinyurl.com/pwjmseq)

**SEOUL SNOW FESTIVAL:**

Through Feb. 9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., until 9 p.m. on Fri.-Sun.; featuring snow-themed exhibition and more at Peace Plaza at the War Memorial of Korea, Samgaki Station (Subway Line 4 & 6); 15,000 won adults, 12,000 won ages 2-13; +82-2-1330.

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific

# Small-town Tokyo

## Yanaka neighborhood gives a glimpse of quiet daily life

By LINDA LOMBARDI  
The Associated Press

A typical visitor to Tokyo envisions a futuristic city of skyscraper canyons and electronic gadgets, but in the eastern part of the city, an older way of life persists.

"In Yanaka, you have the history, the tradition, the temples, without any of the self-consciousness you have in Kyoto," says Allan West, who's lived for more than 30 years in the neighborhood known for cultural preservation.

Yanaka is one of a trio of neighborhoods called Yanesen after their first syllables (Yanaka, Nezu and Sendagi). They are part of the *shitamachi*, or old downtown district of Tokyo. Yanaka has a mid-20th century vibe uncommon in Tokyo, which was mostly destroyed twice in the 20th century by earthquake and war. Small one-product shops that have sold rice crackers or traditional handicrafts for

generations coexist with modern art galleries and young bakers of artisanal European breads, set on wandering streets and alleys with a low, human scale unlike the high-rises of familiar Tokyo neighborhoods like Shinjuku and Shibuya.

### Shop locally

Yanaka has few of the big franchise stores, often Western, that you see in the rest of Tokyo.

"People live above their businesses," says West, an American artist. "None of this has a big corporation behind it. Pretty much, the individuals who run them are there."

The easiest place to start exploring is the old Yanaka Ginza shopping street, a short walk from Nippori Station. As you leave the station you'll pass Yanaka Cemetery, worth a visit for the interesting gnarled cherry trees even when they're not in flower. There you might have your first encounter with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



PHOTOS BY LINDA LOMBARDI/AP

A temple in the Yanaka neighborhood of Tokyo provides a peaceful getaway. The Yanesen area (Yanaka, Nezu and Sendagi) of the city has an unusually large number of temples, with 73 in Yanaka alone.



Artist Allan West works in his studio in Yanaka. Only nine stores remain in Japan that sell the traditional pigments he paints with, four of which are in Yanaka.



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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific



Boasting an oven made of volcanic rock from Mt. Fuji, the Atom bakery sells Western-style pastries and is decorated with figures from the classic Astro Boy cartoon from which it takes its name.

## FROM PAGE 34

the wandering cats that are mascots of the neighborhood.

Continue down the hill from the station and you'll come to a broad staircase leading down to Yanaka Ginza, where the visitor can find old and new crafts, old and new food, and souvenirs and gifts.

A Western-style bakery that boasts of an oven made with stone from Mount Fuji stands next to a shop that sells traditional Japanese sweets. There's a shop entirely devoted to items made by hand from bamboo, a tiny stall where you can get T-shirts custom-printed with illustrations of various animals, and a shop that sells traditional wooden and straw-rope sandals.

You'll see the feline motif throughout, from a modern gift shop of cat-themed gifts to a shop that sells the traditional bean paste-filled cakes usually made in the shape of a fish, but here, of course, in the form of a cat. If you're hesitant about a bean-flavored dessert, order one of the soft ice cream cones and it'll come with a tiny one to sample.

## Neighborhood life

What's also special about Yanaka is the window it offers on the everyday life of the neighborhood. Yanaka Ginza sells everything practical that locals could need. Some of it is familiar: a drugstore, small grocery, fish shop, butcher, and clothing and handbags from the cheap to the fashionable. Others are more

## KNOW &amp; GO

The Yanesen Tourist information center can provide information on Yanaka and its sister neighborhoods, Nezu and Sendagi, at [ti-yanesen.jp/en](http://ti-yanesen.jp/en).

unusual to Westerners: a shop that sells just pickled vegetables, and one that offers various kinds of fish paste.

It's interesting to simply wander the residential alleys, where the unpaved streets are crowded with meticulously cared-for potted plants in front of small homes tightly packed together. You'll also find yourself stumbling upon some of the more than 100 temples in the Yanesen area, with 73 in Yanaka alone.

To explore the rest of the neighborhood from Yanaka Ginza, you may pick up a detailed tourist map for 300 yen, but any of the free English neighborhood maps you can find around town will do just as well. Turn right at the end of the shopping street and you'll find a tourist information center with many maps and brochures (though its opening hours are somewhat irregular), which can also arrange guided tours by reservation.

## Art and crafts

This unassuming, sometimes shabby neighborhood has been a center of the arts for centuries,



PHOTOS BY LINDA LOMBARDI/AP

The feline motif is popular in Tokyo's Yanaka neighborhood because the cats that roam the area are its mascots. Above, a shop sells bean paste-filled cakes, usually shaped like a fish, in the shape of a cat.



Yanaka's narrow streets are lined with greenery and trees that residents and shopkeepers maintain in flowerpots.

and still supports both the old and new. Many traditional crafts are still practiced and can even be seen in action. "There are a lot of open workshops," says West, who also holds open studio hours where you can watch him paint. "You'll walk by the *tatami*

maker, the silversmith, and can look into the window and see them doing that."

Only nine stores remain in all of Japan that supply the traditional pigments, ground from precious stones, that West paints with, and four of them

are in Yanaka. Contemporary art galleries also exist, some in repurposed buildings such as an old public bathhouse and a pawnshop built in 1847.

## Quiet nights

Another way that Yanaka is unlike the rest of Tokyo is that the streets are quiet at night, so it's best visited in the daytime. But this is part of its charm and another reason to come. Another Westerner who's lived here for decades, Dennis Pasche, says, "It's good for relaxing — to remove stress, to decompress."

Pasche has built a Swiss chalet in Yanaka on what he says is the highest point in Tokyo, but despite this re-creation of something of his native Switzerland, he's passionate about his adopted home.

"In Tokyo, you can find whatever you want," he says. "In Shinjuku, Roppongi, Shibuya, you find the Western world. If you are interested in the culture you need to come downtown. This is downtown. The culture remains here, alive."

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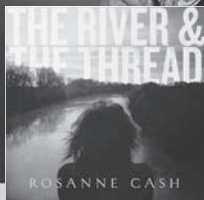
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## WEEKEND: MUSIC

REFLECTING  
ON HER  
HISTORY**Rosanne Cash**

The River &amp; The Thread (Blue Note)

The songs on "The River & The Thread" rock like a cradle, and the rhythm rings true while Rosanne Cash explores her roots.

The mesmerizing musical journey takes her to Arkansas, the Mississippi Delta and the Gulf Coast as Cash encounters the ghosts of Robert Johnson, Emmett Till, AM radio and her Civil War ancestors. There's also the repeated tug of Memphis, where Cash was born around the time her father, Johnny Cash, cut his first record.

This Southern music stretches far beyond the confines of country — that's a violin on "Night School," not a fiddle. The 11 songs blend Tennessee flatpaw twang with gospel, the blues, and even hints of jazz while building a bridge from Dust Bowl ballads to Dusty Springfield pop.

Covering so much territory takes time, but Cash makes it well worthwhile. In these days of downloads, "The River" offers an eloquent argument for albums. Her husband and producer, John Leventhal, pulls it all together and ensures the set's considerable ambitions don't overwhelm the immaculate arrangements. There's no hot pickin' here; instead, Cash's marvelous material is the star as she shares her story of rediscovery.

—Steven Wine  
The Associated Press

## Trips south inspire Rosanne Cash's new album

**Rosanne Cash, daughter of cultural icon Johnny Cash, has become a revered artist in her own right. The singer-songwriter's latest album, "The River & the Thread," is steeped in her Southern roots.**

Universal Music Group

By DAVID BAUDER  
The Associated Press

**J**ohn Hiatt once commanded us in song to "Drive South." Rosanne Cash took him up on it.

Cash's first collection of new compositions in seven years is inspired by trips south — by car, in her mind and into her own family history. "There's never any highway when you're looking for the past," she sings as a mission statement in the opening minutes of her album, "The River & The Thread."

Johnny Cash's daughter was primarily raised in California and has been a New Yorker for more than two decades.

"I have some Southern sensibility, but it would be false to say I'm Southern at the core," she said. "I don't think I could have written the record if I was. It required some distance."

An example is "Money Road," a song born out of a birthday road trip for husband and producer John Leventhal, a William Faulkner fan who wanted to explore where the novelist grew up. The region is historically rich, the birthplace of bluesmen and the murder site of civil rights figure Emmett Till. The couple stopped and sat on the Tallahatchie Bridge, memorably cited in Bobbie Gentry's "Ode to Billie Joe," a song Cash has recorded and frequently sings in concert.

Cash is pictured from behind on the disc's cover looking out at the Tallahatchie River.

The "thread" reference comes from the opening song "A Feather's Not a Bird" courtesy of Cash's friend and sewing teacher Natalie Chernin, who lives in Florence, Ala.

The disc's lyrics are rich in Southern locales: Florence, the Tallahatchie Bridge, the James River in Virginia, Mobile, Ala., Memphis, Tenn., Nashville, Arkansas. Cash spent time in Dyess,

Ark., helping Arkansas State University restore the home where her father grew up as an historic site.

"The Long Way Home" is about the circuitous path many people take that leads back to their roots. Cash, 58, took it, too. "What makes you care about where your parents came from in your 40s and 50s that you didn't care about in your 20s and 30s?" she said.

She spent her 20s and 30s as a country music star. Despite that history, despite making an album primarily about the South, the country music establishment is likely to ignore her this time.

They've both moved on. She wants the music to be heard, but is realistic about the outlets available.

One pathway is the Americana music community, where she is "revered," said Jed Hill, executive director of the Americana Music Association. "She's unique, not because of who she is but because of her talent and her personality," he said. "She's incredibly smart and passionate about making music."

Rosanne Cash

Cash's famous musical guests all had Southern connections, including John Paul White of the Civil Wars, guitarist Derek Trucks and singer Cory Chisel. Kris Kristofferson, John Prine, Amy Helm, Rodney Crowell and Tony Joe White sing background on the Civil War tale "When the Master Calls the Roll." She and Leventhal wrote the song with ex-husband Crowell, a connection hard to envision by anyone who listened to Cash's 1990 album, "Interiors."

It felt natural, Cash said. "John calls him his husband-in-law," she said.



## WEEKEND: MUSIC



# Springsteen's High Hopes

Album's uneven odds and ends rock

BY DAN DeLUCA • *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

**B**ruce Springsteen's new album, "High Hopes," would seem to have hodgepodge written all over it. None of the songs are brand new. Eight are originals that didn't make the cut onto various studio albums. Some are longtime staples of Springsteen's live performances. Three are covers, including the title track, written by Tim Scott McConnell of roots-rock band the Havalinas, and originally recorded by the Boss for his 1996 "Blood Brothers" EP. So "High Hopes" couldn't possibly cohere as a unified artistic statement, or count as a significant addition to the prodigious Springsteen songbook, could it?

Well, no and yes. It is true that his 18th studio album — which debuted Jan. 14, but which was leaked on the Web after it was briefly made available on Amazon's mobile site at the end of December — doesn't stick to a stylistic or thematic tone. And it makes use of an array of implements in the New Jersey rocker's musical toolbox.

That's not such a bad thing. Since reuniting in 1999 with the E Street Band, Springsteen has been in his most prolific recording period. Because he often omits tracks that don't fit the mood of a project — like the 9/11 grief of "The Rising," or the blue-collar empathy of 2012's "Wrecking Ball" — choice tracks get left behind for reasons that can seem perverse in retrospect.

Which is not to say "High Hopes" is teeming with lost masterpieces. It's uneven in spots, and suffers at times from an overload of Tom Morello, the Rage Against the Machine guitarist who filled in for Steven Van Zandt on an Australian tour when the guitarist-actor was off playing a mobster in the Netflix show "Lilyhammer" last year.

Morello, in many ways, is to be credited with the album's existence: He



**Bruce Springsteen**  
High Hopes (Columbia)

will return in February in their (as yet) only scheduled dates of 2014, Springsteen and band recorded the title cut and a driving version of "Just Like Fire Would" by Australian band the Saints. It's a track right in the E-Street wheelhouse. In the liner notes, Springsteen writes that "Tom and his guitar became my muse, pushing the project to another level."

The Boss' new BFF plays on 10 tracks, and sings a duet on a thunderous remake of "The Ghost of Tom Joad," the folkie title track to Springsteen's 1995 solo album. Including an extended guitar

freakout, it runs seven-plus minutes, and traded-off vocals diminish the impact of the song, inspired by John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath."

Faring better as a sweeping epic is "American Skin (41 Shots)." It was originally written in response to the 1999 death of African immigrant Amadou Diallo, who was shot by New York City police officers. They were acquitted of second-degree murder charges.

The details — "Is it a gun, is it a knife, is it a wallet? / This is your life" — are specific yet timeless. The conclusion — "You can get killed just for living in your American skin" — could just as easily apply to Trayvon Martin, to whom Springsteen dedicated the tune last year.

What about the less widely circulated tunes? "Harry's Place," written for "The Rising," is darkly atmospheric. A counterpoint to that album's "Mary's Place," it's an anti-"It's a Wonderful Life." "If he didn't exist, it would all go on just the same," a grizzled, fatalistic Springsteen sings. It's marred by the Boss' recent taste for distorting his voice. A better cut from "The Rising" sessions is "Down in the Hole," which floats on a keyboard wash reminiscent of "I'm on Fire."

The album picks up with tighter tunes that don't overreach. "Heaven's Wall" is a shoutier that puts to productive use the gospel power of the beefed-up E-Street Band. "Frankie Fell in Love" is a winning trifle that evokes Springsteen and Van Zandt's salad days in Asbury Park, N.J.

Throughout "High Hopes," Springsteen moves from full-throated rockers to whispery folk. In the latter category, the keeper is "Hunter of Invisible Game." "Hunter" finds Springsteen at his most Dylanesque, wandering an apocalyptic landscape in search of he knows not what. "The Wall" is a more concrete folk song about Walter Cichon, a Jersey Shore rocker who died in Vietnam. The sentiment is powerful, but more effective on the page than to the ear.

The album comes to a close with "Dream Baby Dream," a gorgeous cover of the 1970s protopunk duo Suicide that Springsteen played on the harmonium on the 2005 "Devils & Dust" tour. It wraps up "High Hopes" nicely by succinctly restating the "keep hope alive" credo that has always animated his work. "Come on, keep the fire burning," the Boss man sings in a stirring incantation. "Come on baby, dream, baby dream."

TERIE BENDIKSBY, NTB SCANPIX/AP



# WEEKEND: BOOKS

## 'Invention of Wings'

### A story of sisters, slavery and strength

BY AMANDA ST. AMAND  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**F**rom the opening words that place 10-year-old Hetty, a slave girl whose mama calls her Handful, in the courtyard of a Charleston plantation, "The Invention of Wings" tells a story of strength, sorrow and shame.

Handful is presented as a birthday gift to one of the many children of the South Carolina estate, Sarah Grimke, to mark her 11th birthday. One child being given another — shameful.

But Sue Monk Kidd's deft writing takes us into the hearts and minds of both of these girls immediately, as Sarah tells her mother she has no need to own a slave.

"I was sent to solitary confinement in my new room and ordered to write a letter of apology to each guest. Mother settled me at the desk with paper, inkwell and a letter she'd composed herself, which I wrote to copy."

From that first act of rebellion, Kidd shows readers that Sarah strains against the mold forced on young women of the Southern aristocracy. She reads voraciously, abetted in the early years by her father. But once she is caught teaching Hetty to read, her father decides he's doing his willful daughter no favors and forbids her from his

vast library.

While Sarah is going through her own growing pains, Handful must live under the control of her owners. She has only her mother, Charlotte (who Handful calls Mauma), to turn to — and Charlotte is as willful as Sarah.

Charlotte tells Sarah early on that she must help Handful to freedom, and Charlotte fights against her slavery as best she can. She steals, fakes an injury when it aids her and never lets Handful forget that they are human beings who deserve freedom.

As Sarah and Handful grow to adulthood, they fight different battles while remaining committed to similar goals — Sarah wants freedom for all slaves, and Handful wants freedom for herself and Mauma.

Kidd weaves a fascinating story, for Sarah Grimke and her sister, Nina, were real women of the early 1800s who became the first female abolition agents. Handful also existed — a young slave named Hetty given to Sarah.

But the rich and complex relationship between Sarah and Handful is the author's creation, and a masterful one. They become friends, of sorts, but Handful resents her position, and Sarah — despite her pure intentions — was reared with a sense of entitlement and wealth that are hard to shake.

Kidd, best known for "The Secret Life of Bees," also creates the rich love between Mauma and Handful. Mauma vanishes from the plantation when Handful is 14 years old. Handful unsettled at not knowing her fate. The love between these two women is pal-



VINCE/AP

**"The Secret Life of Bees" author Sue Monk Kidd recently released her novel, "The Invention of Wings," about American abolitionists Sarah and Nina Grimke.**

pable; you share Handful's sense of loss.

Most of this book is about Sarah, Nina and Handful. A few men play important but small roles. But this beautiful and ultimately uplifting book is about women and their fight to be heard.

No wonder Oprah Winfrey picked "The Invention of Wings" for her book club. It's a most deserving choice.

## 'Little Failure' an immigrant success story

BY ANN LEVIN  
The Associated Press

**A**t age 41, Gary Shteyngart seems awfully young to be writing a memoir. But readers of "Little Failure" soon discover that he's been precocious all his life.

The book is Shteyngart's funny, often moving, chronicle of his family's journey from St. Petersburg, Russia, then known as Leningrad, to the U.S. in 1979. It's also a

brutally honest record of his personal transformation from fearful, sickly child to angry, self-destructive youth to professional success and mensh.

Part of the wave of Soviet refuseniks, the Shteyngarts settled in Queens, N.Y., when young Igor — Gary was the English approximation — was just 7. Soon he was packed off to Hebrew school, where he was bullied by other kids and indoctrinated with religious Zionism.

Then one day, the geeky kid, who dreamed of being a cosmonaut in Russia and inhaled Isaac Asimov almost from the moment his family landed at JFK Airport, was asked to read aloud in class from his schoolboy attempt at a science-fiction story.

Classmates were enthralled, his ostracism ended and the budding young writer appeared to be well on his way to the career that would bring him great fortune. But years of turmoil lay ahead: drugs, alcohol, failed romance, bad behavior, unsuitable jobs.

Shteyngart gives a full shout out to psychoanalysis for helping him learn to manage his unexamined sadness and rage.

As he prepared to write this book, he went back to Russia with his parents to try to plumb the depths of their pain. The urge to write a memoir was great, he explains, because of his overwhelming fear that he would die before he did, depriving him of the chance to express his love and gratitude.

The title, "Little Failure," is a nickname his mother bestowed on him soon after they moved to Queens. The meaning: natural talent that he describes throughout the book — the "supposedly funny banter with a twist of the knife." It's an ironic title, as well, because Shteyngart, the quintessential overachiever-immigrant son, has succeeded beyond any parent's wildest dreams.



## Should we? CIA memoir reveals what wasn't asked

BY MATT APUZZO  
The Associated Press

**T**here is a moment in John Rizzo's new memoir when the longtime CIA lawyer has the chance to change history. It is March 2002, and Rizzo has just been briefed on the agency's proposals for interrogating suspected terrorists.

Rizzo walks the grounds of the CIA, smoking a cigar, thinking about waterboarding and other unprecedented tactics that seem "sadistic and terrifying."

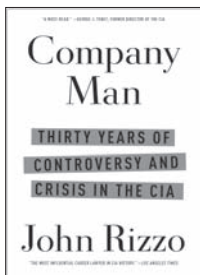
Rizzo realizes that, on his own say-so, he can end the discussion right there. With the stroke of a pen, Rizzo, the CIA's acting general counsel, could kill the program before it starts.

"It would have been a relatively easy thing to do, actually," he writes.

Then he thinks about what would happen if terrorists struck again. People would blame the CIA. Rizzo would blame himself. And he couldn't deal with that.

So despite his reservations, Rizzo sends the interrogation proposal to the Justice Department, beginning a process that gave the green light to tactics the United States once considered and prosecuted as torture.

Moments like this occur again and again in the roughly six



chapters Rizzo dedicates to the CIA's post-9/11 response. People set aside nagging questions about morality (should we?) and focused instead on the legalistic question (can we?).

Rizzo's portrayal of key meetings offers an unprecedented and sometimes startling look at how uncomfortable the enhanced-interrogation techniques made people.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld "didn't want to get his fingerprints anywhere near the EITs." Secretary of State Colin Powell seemed "intensely uncomfortable." National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice was disturbed that the detainees were forced to be nude.

Yet there were no discussions about whether this path would damage U.S. relationships with allies, harm U.S. long-term interests or weaken its moral standing.

Even though the interrogation program is more than a decade in the past, the topic remains timely. Since leaked documents showed the U.S. vacuuming up millions of domestic phone records, tracking cellphone locations and eavesdropping on calls, officials have defended the tactics as legal.

Once again, the question of whether the government should do something is getting less attention than the question of whether it can.

Many insiders have written memoirs about the post-9/11 CIA. Often, those who approved the interrogation program are portrayed as two-dimensional heroes willing to make unpopular decisions to help the country.

Rizzo paints a less flattering but more revealing picture, one in which fear hung over important decisions. Fear of another attack, fear of blame, fear of political liability.

Depending on your politics and your views on waterboarding, that might make these figures more relatable and human, their decisions that much more wrenching.

Or it might make them seem

cowardly.

Whatever conclusion you draw, Rizzo's book makes an important contribution to history and the debate over interrogation. And it serves as a reminder of how much fear drives decision-making in Washington.

For instance, Rizzo regrets not presenting the interrogation program to more people in Congress. Not because the legislative branch should have been fully aware of this unprecedented step, but because it would have headed off criticism of the CIA years later.

In a few key places, Rizzo skips the opportunity for what would have been important reflection. There is no analysis, for example, of the two psychologists who became the architects of the interrogation program despite limited background and expertise.

"Company Man" is tailor-made for CIA buffs. Rizzo's career as an agency lawyer spanned the decades from Iran-Contra to drones, with Russian turncoat Aldrich Ames, the rise of al-Qaida and some interrogation videos destroyed in between.

Though Rizzo never sheds his role as the company man, his book manages to strike notes that are both earnest and candid. That alone sets "Company Man" apart in the genre.



## WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT



THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY/AP

Robin Williams is President Dwight Eisenhower and Forest Whitaker is Cecil Gaines in "Lee Daniels' The Butler."

## NEW ON DVD

**"Lee Daniels' The Butler":** True story of the White House butler who worked for eight presidents. Forest Whitaker stars. The film tells a powerful story of a man who goes from picking cotton to working in the White House. His relationship with multiple presidents parallels events regarding race relations unfolding in America. Whitaker turns in an Oscar-worthy performance, but the cast of supporting players — particularly Oprah Winfrey — is often more of a distraction than attraction.

**"Carrie":** How much you enjoy the remake of the 1976 classic horror film will depend on how well you remember the original film. Except for more elaborate special effects and the addition of social media as a tool for the bullying that turns milquetoast Carrie into the worst prom date ever, this is basically the same take on the Stephen King novel. Those who haven't seen the original will be introduced to the emotionally and socially stunted Carrie, played to a creepy chill by Chloë Grace Moretz. She's a high school reject because her zealot mother (Julianne Moore) has raised her to believe that any good feelings are pathways for Satan to take her soul. You can imagine how much dear old mom fears any sexual awakenings that could be going on with her daughter.

**"You're Next":** The first 10 minutes of the new horror film "You're Next" will feel familiar to fans of the genre. Moments after a couple have sex in an isolated location, they're brutally murdered. Don't give up on the movie.

Through the smart writing of Simon Barrett, the film slowly changes into a horror thriller that will have you questioning who is evil and who is good. It's this ambiguity that makes for a refreshing take on what has become a genre stagnated by too many conventions.

Also available on DVD: **"The Spectacular Now"** **"Riddick":** Vin Diesel is back playing the anthro.

**"Enough Said":** Julia Louis-Dreyfus, James Gandolfini star in this story of complicated relationships.

**"Fruitvale Station":** Based on the true story of a young man who was killed by a BART police officer in Oakland, Calif.

**"Big Sur":** Jack Kerouac tries to exorcise his inner demons.

**"Top Gear 20":** Latest season of the BBC series that looks at cars.

**"Where I Am":** Man goes to Ireland to lay the past to rest.

**"Voodoo Possession":** Demon reaches from beyond the grave to torment the living.

**"I'm In Love With A Church Girl":** Drug trafficker falls for a church girl.

**"Unmanned: America's Drone Wars":** Looks at effect of U.S. drone strikes.

**"Wolverine vs. Sabretooth":** Wolverine and Sabretooth square off in one more battle.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

# More isn't always better

## Binge TV viewing might not be good for the mind — or body

By BILL WARD  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Gabby Helmin-Clazmer is an unabashed binge viewer. She has devoured full TV seasons at a time of everything from "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" to "Breaking Bad." But as with other major indulgences, the aftermath can be a downer. One way or another.

"If I binge-watch a reality show, I feel like I have wasted a ton of my time," said Helmin-Clazmer of Minneapolis. But when she finishes an intense drama, "the depression and feeling of emptiness is much stronger than with a reality show. A world that I was once 'living in' no longer exists."

As binge viewing continues to radically change the way Americans watch television — 62 percent of us do

it, according to a recent Harris Interactive survey — the after-effects are just beginning to be understood.

The good news: It's probably not the worst way to while away a winter weekend. The bad news: It's not the healthiest of habits, and might even influence our worldview if the shows are dark and depressing.

Michael Erdman of Little Canada, Minn., just watched the second season of "American Horror Story," and "I've got to tell you, that was one sick and twisted show. Loved every minute of it, but it was giving me nightmares."

The concerns can go beyond the psyche, said Dr. James Mitchell, president of the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute in Fargo, N.D. "It doesn't sound like a particularly desirable behavior, both for one's mood and one's physical health," he said. "The inactivity is bad, the food that accompanies it probably is bad, your mood is bad."

TV scholars have long worried about the adverse effects of watching too much television. They even have a name for it.

"The cultivation theory says that people who watch significantly more TV have a darker view of the world; they see it as a mean and scary place," said Kevin Sauter, a communications professor at the University of St. Thomas. "This is a more focused experience — the binge. And

**“ It doesn't sound like a particularly desirable behavior, both for one's mood and one's physical health. The inactivity is bad, the food that accompanies it probably is bad, your mood is bad. ”**

Dr. James Mitchell  
president of the Neuropsychiatric Research  
Institute in Fargo, N.D.

yes, someone might be more concerned about going out into the community after three days of mayhem. But I don't think it's a permanent condition."

But then many of us simply move on to the next series, via Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, "On Demand" services or myriad other outlets. Even President Barack Obama spends what spare time he has watching serialized shows. The New York Times recently reported that Obama is working his way through the DVD box set of AMC's meth kingpin hit "Breaking Bad." He also is keenly awaiting the new season of the political drama "House of Cards."

That show, which earned nine Emmy nominations last year, was created by the streaming service Netflix specifically for binge viewing, with all 13 episodes released simultaneously.

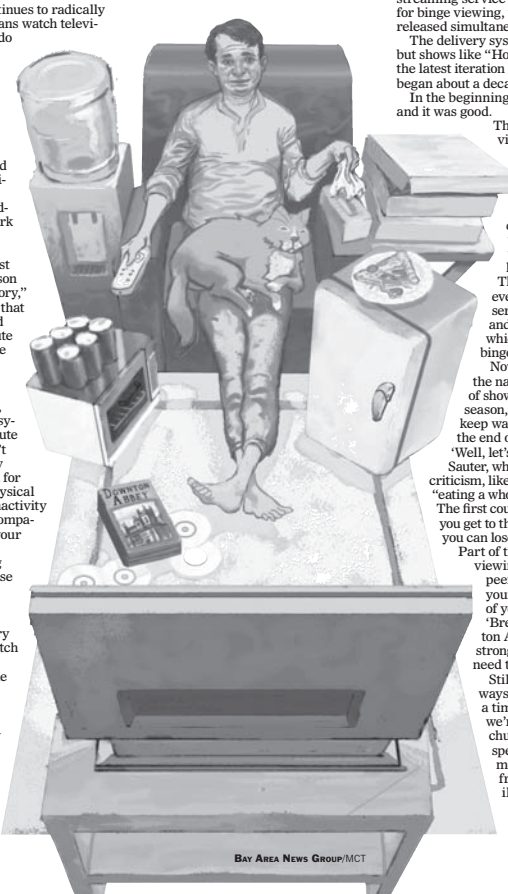
The delivery system might be different, but shows like "House of Cards" are just the latest iteration of a phenomenon that began about a decade ago.

In the beginning was the DVD box set, and it was good.

The shift toward binge viewing was prompted by serialized dramas like "The West Wing" and "The Sopranos." Their ongoing story lines compelled viewers to follow the sagas of these heroes (and anti-heroes) in short order. The trend gained steam even with short-lived series such as "Firefly" and "Freaky and Geeks," which became narratives for binge viewing on DVD.

Nowadays, Sauter said, the narrative in these types of shows can span an entire season, pushing viewers to keep watching. "So you get to the end of an episode, and it's 'Well, let's watch one more,'" Sauter, who teaches courses in TV criticism, likens the experience to "eating a whole bag of potato chips. The first couple are good, but once you get to the middle of the pack, you can lose all the savoring of it."

Part of the impetus for binge viewing, Sauter added, is peer pressure, "what your social circle expects of you. With shows like 'Breaking Bad' and 'Downton Abbey,' there's such a strong social component, a need to keep up or catch up." Still, he said, "TV has always been accused of being a time-waster, and now we're talking about big, big chunks of time. And time spent (binge viewing) means time taken away from other things, family, friends, activities."



BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/MCT



## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS



# Fight flab you can't see

## Scan measures internal body fat

By EDWARD M. EVELD  
The Kansas City Star

**M**ichelle Sullivan scored a prominent entry last August in the annals of putting oneself out there.

A big, vivid image of Sullivan's body fat as recorded by a medical scanner appeared on the cover of the Kansas City Star's FV1 magazine for all to see, with her internal belly fat lit up in bright yellow.

It's not the kind of graphic information everyone would want to share. But Sullivan was ready to do something about her weight problem, and she figured going public would help her stay focused and could help others, too.

The 50-year-old nurse had decided to take advantage of a new body scan at St. Luke's Cardio Health and Wellness Center touted as highly accurate and specific. It differentiates between subcutaneous fat, the kind you can pinch, and visceral fat, which is internal and is the most dangerous kind because it crowds out organs and produces harmful chemicals.

Sullivan knew she needed to lose weight, but the map of the fat concentrated in her abdomen, visceral adipose tissue, and the number assigned was a shock.

A VAT estimate higher than 100 is considered an increased health risk. Higher than 160 is "high risk." Sullivan's VAT was 271.

Since her encounter with the scan, Sullivan has lost 23 pounds. She followed the advice of Becky Captain, nurse practitioner at the center, to focus each meal on a lean protein and "two colors," that is, vegetables and fruit. Sugars and starches are no-nos.

"I feel a lot better," Sullivan says. The body aches she feared might be the onset of arthritis have gone away.

For breakfast, she often has scrambled eggs and a piece of turkey bacon. Lunch might be a piece of chicken plus tomatoes and cucumbers.

Sullivan also prepares for those "other" times.

"If I'm going out shopping, I pack some nuts in my purse so I don't stop and get a big pretzel," she says.

In the afternoon at work, she chews bubble gum to avoid snacking. And no more soda, which she used to enjoy daily. Captain says the center has provided about 275 scans since offering them to the public in July.

"People are surprised to hear about the different kinds of fat they're carrying," she says. "Just knowing about their visceral fat and that it's working against them, it's hurting their health, is a motivator to lose weight."

The scan can serve as a wake-up call, she says.

A full-body scan helped Michelle Sullivan, shown above right and in X-ray, commit to changing her eating habits and lifestyle.

Kansas City Star/MCT

# Eating nuts during pregnancy may cut baby's allergy risk

By MARY MACVEAN  
Los Angeles Times

**P**regnant peanut lovers can celebrate, perhaps with a PB&J snack: A study shows an association between pregnant women who ate the most peanuts and tree nuts and children with a decreased risk of allergy.

Women had been advised to avoid peanuts and tree nuts, as well as other highly allergic foods, during pregnancy and until the child turned 3, as a way to try to reduce the chances of an allergy. But those recommendations were rescinded after researchers found that the effort didn't work.

The current study, from Boston Children's Hospital and published Dec. 30 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics*, found that women who ate nuts more than five times a month had the lowest incidence of allergic children.

"By linking maternal peanut consumption to reduced allergy risk, we are providing new data to support the hypothesis that early allergen exposure increases tolerance and reduces risk of childhood food allergy," Dr. Michael Young, lead author of the study, said in a statement.

"Current guidelines recommend that mothers should not restrict their diets during pregnancy, but this recommendation remains a widely debated topic among food allergy experts," Dr. Ruchi Gupta wrote in an opinion piece accompanying the study. Further research is needed, Gupta wrote, to determine why 1 in 13 U.S. children has a food allergy of some kind.

Despite recommendations to avoid allergens, more children were found to be allergic to nuts and other foods, with the rate tripling from 1997 to 2007. Peanut allergies affect 1 percent to 3 percent of people in most Western countries. In the U.S., it's at 4 percent, the study said. The reasons are not known.

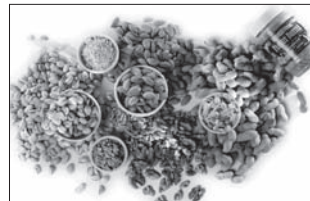
"No one can say for sure if the avoidance recommendation for peanuts was related to the rising number of peanut allergies seen in the late 1990s and early 2000s, but one thing is certain: It did not stop the increase," Young said.

The researchers looked at data from 8,205 children, whose parents were part of the Nurses Study, a long-term health study. They found 140 cases of peanut or tree-nut allergy among the children born from Jan. 1, 1990, to Dec. 31, 1994.

Animal studies have shown a protective effect of maternal exposure to allergens in foods. The human data, Young said, are not strong enough to conclude a cause-and-effect relationship. He said more research is needed.

Tree nuts are walnuts, almonds, pistachios, cashews, pecans, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts and Brazil nuts. Peanuts, Gupta noted, are a good source of protein, and they provide folic acid, which has the potential to prevent neural tube defects.

The researchers said women who are themselves allergic should not eat peanuts or tree nuts.



Kirk McKoy, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

The recommendations to avoid peanuts and tree nuts during pregnancy have been rescinded following a study that showed that women who ate nuts more than five times a month had the lowest incidence of allergic children.



## WEEKEND: FAMILY

ILLUSTRATION BY  
BEV SCHILLING  
Stars and Stripes

## Mommy's home to stay

Making room for the unexpected, in more ways than one

BY FRANK SHYONG  
Los Angeles Times

I have a confession to make. I am a 25-year-old living with his mother, the walking stereotype of a millennial. Raised on unearned parental affirmation, equipped with elevated self-esteem, we graduated from college only to face the most dismal economy since the Great Depression. One result, according to a 2012 Pew study, was that 36 percent of the nation's 18- to 31-year-olds were bunking in their parents' homes.

They call us basement kids and nest dwellers.

It doesn't always happen that way. My millennial story began about a year and a half ago, when I landed a reporting job in Los Angeles. My parents — back in Tennessee, where I grew up — decided to buy a condo in California. The plan was to have me rent from them so the income, plus any eventual sale proceeds, could help them retire.

I put up a quick but hopeless fight, then steered them toward a property in a decent neighborhood. I helped oversee the renovations, arranged for needed repairs and reveled in being out on my own.

Four months later, I was hosting my first Christmas. A few hours after dinner, my parents dropped the bomb: My mother's job search had ended in Los Angeles. She'd be moving in with me.

Perhaps it was just a coincidence, but I immediately fell ill. Bedridden for a week, battling a 102-degree fever, I tried to think of a way out. I knew my parents needed help

with the loan payments, and I couldn't bring myself to move out and leave my mom to navigate Los Angeles alone. (A lifelong resident of suburbia, she once had shown me a parking ticket and asked if she needed to pay it.)

**This past February, my mother moved in. ... For the past year, my independence has been in dignified retreat.**

mariachi dance party.

For the past year, my independence has been in dignified retreat. First I took down some decorative paper lanterns, because apparently they trigger Taiwanese superstitions about death. Then I turned to using the air conditioning only in secret, fearing my mother's reaction to the energy bill. I started tiptoeing around the creaky parts of the stairs at night.

Eventually, when I could no longer find anything in the cupboards, I gave up control of the kitchen entirely. Our dishwasher was converted into a dish rack. Avocados once left out to ripen now are mercilessly refrigerated. I miss gamacole.

Living with my mother, of course, also means listening to her opinions. She doesn't like that I work long hours, and I have become well-

versed in the seemingly vast array of better-paying careers that I could have. I'm also intimately familiar with the careers of her friends' children, at least those with jobs at Apple or Google.

But there are benefits to the arrangement — even beyond having my laundry done and my meals prepared. My mother is a positive presence in my life, and I try to be the same for her.

When there's friction at the hospital where she works, I help her rehearse English phrases that convey professionalism and demand respect. She reads Chinese newspapers, suggests articles for my beat, and tells me stories about our distant family in Taiwan.

Our living situation is the byproduct of sweeping economic change. My parents' retirement savings were erased by the stock market nosedive. Job stability has been elusive for more than the millennials.

I have come to view college graduates moving home with their families — or the other way around — as an economic alliance, not a narrative of generational failure. This is the modern version of circling the wagons against danger and uncertainty. And it brings far-flung families closer.

My dad recently lost his job in Tennessee and is applying for positions in Los Angeles. Later this year he's planning to move in with us.

Our two-bedroom condo is not especially large, and living habits are sure to collide. But we'll move some things around. That's what a family does, even a millennial's.

## SPOUSE CALLS

## Family memories are frozen in time

My son dragged his empty suitcase, thunk, thunk, thunk, down the stairs to his room to pack up his things, as I turned off the Christmas tree lights on our family's last evening together.

The next day would be filled with two trips to the airport, with one child flying back to Texas to resume graduate school and another back to her college in California. I said my good nights and reluctantly set my alarm for an early wake-up.

The next morning was gray. Traffic was heavy, and a steady rain eroded the blanket of snow that decorated our last holiday week. We approached the airport, and I saw the "Departures" sign. I hate departures. I wanted to veer toward "Arrivals," as if I could turn back time to the beginning of our visit as easily as turning the steering wheel.

The night before this dreary departure morning, the five of us walked down snowy streets to have dinner at a neighborhood restaurant.

"That was a good time with the kids," my husband said later. "I was thinking while we were sitting there, that I wish we could freeze those moments." I was thinking the same thing.

Several inches of snow and sub-zero temperatures almost made us feel frozen in time the previous week. Our neighborhood near Scott AFB, Ill., was part of the wide swath of the country caught in the polar vortex of wintry weather just after Christmas. Classes were canceled an extra week for our son who's in high school, and even the base was on limited hours and personnel due to bad roads.

We were given more time than we expected just to be together while the snow piled up outside our windows, thankful for a warm house and a well-stocked pantry. We made pots of chili, soup and apple cider and caught up on our favorite mystery series. We had a treasure hunt, a snowball fight and tried curling on the snow-covered street with an improvised curling stone made of ice.

Like most families, over the years we've had many moments we would have frozen if we could: an afternoon of sledding, a game of cards by the fire, or a simple conversation in a coffee shop. Of course, we can't, so we preserve those moments in memory. They're not frozen, so they evolve with each retelling. The snow gets deeper, the jokes funnier, winning scores higher. Disagreements seem less important, and irritations become laughable.

No matter how cold it gets, we can't freeze our time together. Departure day is simply part of the price we pay for making more memories with our family, and it's worth it.

I rarely cry at the airport, though this year I came close. Military moms have had some practice keeping it together at the departure gate, staying strong to reassure our children that all will be well, that we are strong enough to endure. We've been through so many farewells: deployments, moves, sending kids to college across the country or an ocean. Maybe shedding tears in the moment is the healthier alternative, but I usually save mine for later.

Perhaps at this stage of my children's lives, I don't cry because I don't want them to feel guilty for leaving, for happily returning to the lives they've created, to the friends they've made, to their own new worlds. That's no occasion for tears.

I started to watch my daughter going through the familiar motions of airport security, showing ID, putting her things in gray plastic bins and onto the conveyor.

I felt sad, and yet proud of this small symbol of her independence and capability. She didn't know I was still watching, so she didn't turn for one more wave.

"I know it was a longer visit this year," I said to my oldest son, giving him one last hug as we said goodbye.

"For me, it never seems long enough."

It's true, but I also know these children are now adults and that they are forging their own paths. That's the success I want for them, not the deep freeze but a lifetime of memories still to be made.

Terri Barnes writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes. Contact her at [spousecalls@stripes.com](mailto:spousecalls@stripes.com) or at [stripes.com/gop/spousecalls](http://stripes.com/gop/spousecalls).



Terri Barnes



# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

IT'S ONLY "A" GAME By ANDREW CHAIKIN/ Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS
- 1 Last name in Scotch

6 Stream

10 Bloke

14 Like blokes

18 Napoleon, e.g., twice

21 Steakhouse order

24 Test subject

27 Grand-slam drama that stars Bacall's man

30 Half an Xmas "Halls" chant

34 1976 horror hit, with "The"

37 Point value of an A in Scrabble

40 Little to no

43 Heavily favored

46 All-inclusive

49 Beat poet Cassidy and others

52 Captain Hook's right hand

55 69-Across, e.g.

58 Scrams

61 Astral saga that has a Darth part

64 Cutting edge

67 Galager of TV's "The Virginian"

70 French Oscar

73 Bit of Google programming

76 Staple of a waiting room

84 Work on the roof, say

90 "Movin' \_\_\_\_" (TV theme song)

94 One of the Planeten

97 Kitty, e.g.

100 Count

103 "Anything" ("Oliver!" song)

106 "The Witches" writer

109 King Arthur of tennis

112 Kris \_\_\_\_ (music duo)

115 Like classical poetry

118 1976 horror hit, with "The"

121 Point value of an A in Scrabble

124 Little to no

127 Heavily favored

130 All-inclusive

133 Beat poet Cassidy and others

136 Captain Hook's right hand

139 69-Across, e.g.

142 Scrams

145 Astral saga that has a Darth part

148 Cutting edge

151 Galager of TV's "The Virginian"

154 French Oscar

157 Bit of Google programming

160 Staple of a waiting room

163 Best-selling novelist Susan

166 Great Basin natives

169 An op-ed has one

172 Air apparent?

175 Worship

178 "Common Sense" pamphleteer

181 Valdeirian's predecessor, for short

184 Bygone Bombay bigwig

187 Landmark vassal law act

190 Warm musk/cap analgams

193 Gift shop buy

196 Sign at an intersection

199 Apple product, perhaps

202 Recipe amt.

205 Skin soother

208 Gals that saw "Black Swan," "Avatar" and "Ab Fab" attract claps

211 Bar glass that's half Bass, half dark malt

214 Luma's art that can't last

217 "Shazam!"

220 Noted political maiden name

223 Designer McCartney

226 Comedian Margaret

229 "\_\_\_\_ hear"

232 Something woeful

235 Item of attire for 54-Across

238 "Pop" goer

241 Square meals that are round

244 Gatekeeper's cry

247 Lawyers' org.

250 Picasso's designer daughter

253 Tiles target

256 Latin 101 verb

259 Score creator Schirrin

262 Style

265 Subject of the documentary "An Unreasonable Man"

268 Spoils

271 Two-faced

274 Haphazard

277 Gift shop buy

280 Sign at an intersection

283 Apple product, perhaps

286 Recipe amt.

289 Skin soother

292 Gals that saw "Black Swan," "Avatar" and "Ab Fab" attract claps

295 Bar glass that's half Bass, half dark malt

298 Luma's art that can't last

301 "Shazam!"

304 Noted political maiden name

307 Designer McCartney

310 Comedian Margaret

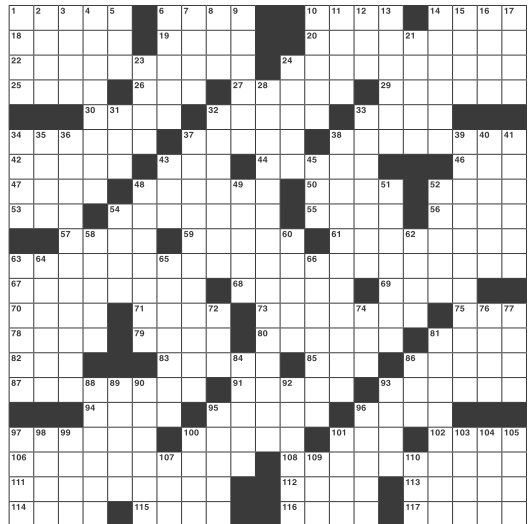
313 "\_\_\_\_ hear"

316 Something woeful

319 Item of attire for 54-Across

322 "Pop" goer

325 Square meals that are round



- 52 Minneapolis suburb
- 54 Jackie of "Shanghai Noon"
- 58 Maine senator after Mitchell
- 60 Striped Girl Scout cookie
- 62 Knocks
- 63 Zodiac symbol
- 64 Pier place
- 65 Adams and Alcott
- 66 Most handy
- 72 '70s self-help course
- 74 Word repeated in the "Superman" intro
- 76 Alliance
- 77 Meaning: Fr.
- 81 Flashback and halfbacks
- 84 Eyelashes
- 86 That, in Tijuana
- 88 Source of excitement
- 89 TV/movie group associated with this puzzle's theme?
- 90 Agave drink
- 92 In the slightest
- 93 Apple product
- 95 The Adversary
- 96 Jerk
- 97 Day-and-night, in a way
- 98 Belafonte hit
- 99 Dungeons & Dragons figure
- 100 Strait-laced
- 101 Elitism
- 103 Reebok alternative
- 104 Hike, with "up"
- 105 The East
- 107 It goes before E except after C
- 109 Whiz
- 110 Ventriane native

## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE






Logan and Cabill uncover a plot far more insidious than drug trafficking—the cartel has discovered a GPS hack with the power to debilitate the United States by making it possible to manipulate everything from traffic signals and banking wire transfers to cruise missiles.

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Pantsless man attempts to board school bus

**OR** CRESWELL — Oregon State Police said a man rammed a Creswell school bus to force it to stop on Interstate 5 in Lane County then took off his pants and tried to board.

There were no children on the bus at the time Tuesday afternoon, and the driver kept the door closed.

As troopers and deputies arrived, the man got back in his car and tried to drive away. The car had two flat tires and crashed into a pond.

Troopers arrested the 38-year-old Bothell, Wash., man and jailed him on charges that include drunken driving, hit-and-run and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

## Plymouth Rock graffiti is quickly cleaned up

**MA** PLYMOUTH — Vandals have struck Plymouth Rock, but the spray-painted mess was quickly cleaned up.

Someone spray-painted the word "LIES" on the chunk of rock earlier this week. Plymouth Rock is engraved with "1620" to mark the Pilgrims' arrival in the New World.

The vandals also defaced the granite walls of the landmark's sunken enclosure with an obscene figure, the phrase "For a drug filled world" and the letter A inside a circle similar to the anarchist symbol.

A worker for the state Department of Conservation and Recreation removed the graffiti Tuesday morning. There was no word on arrests.

## Man gets hefty fine for trophy buck poaching

**WY** RIVERTON — A judge ordered a Riverton man to pay a hefty fine for poaching an 18-point deer deer.

Investigators said Joseph A. Holden, 28, didn't have a general deer license when he shot the deer near the North Fork of the Popo Agie River in October.

Holden pleaded guilty in circuit court last month. Judge Robert Denhardt ordered him to pay \$7,500 in fines and \$4,000 in restitution.

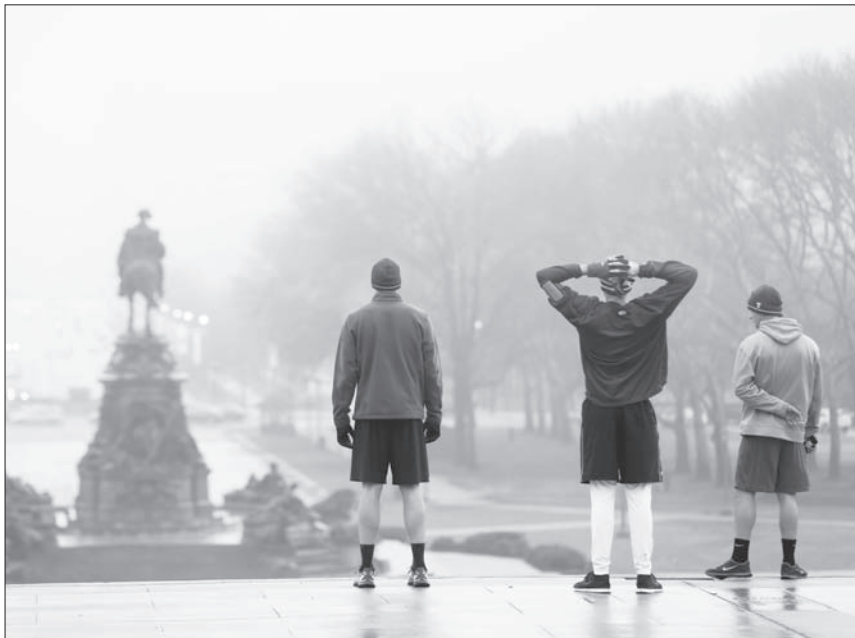
The Riverton Ranger reported the judge also revoked Holden's hunting privileges for 70 years and ordered him to turn over the .223-caliber AR-15-style rifle he used to kill the deer.

Authorities said Holden left the meat to waste. They will try to make some kind of public use of the head, which had nontypical antlers representing 31.5 inches across.

## Woman gets 1 year for hitting Wal-mart worker

**NY** BATAVIA — A 28-year-old woman has been given a court-ordered one-year sentence for punching a 70-year-old cashier at a western New York Wal-Mart on Christmas Eve 2011.

The Daily News of Batavia re-



MATT ROURKE/AP

## Foggy Philly

Runners take in the view from the top of the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on a foggy Wednesday in Philadelphia.

ported Jacquetta Simmons was sentenced Monday after a state appeals court earlier this month ruled that her original five-year state prison sentence was too harsh. She'll serve a one-year term in a county jail with credit for time already served.

Simmons was convicted in August 2012 of assault for punching Wal-Mart cashier Grace Suozzi after she asked to see a receipt for merchandise Simmons was carrying out of the Batavia store on the morning of Dec. 24, 2011. Police said the punch knocked the cashier to the ground and caused fractures to the side of her face.

## YouTube posting of pot plants leads to arrest

**CT** CLINTON — A Connecticut man faces drug charges after police say he posted a YouTube video of himself giving a tour of his marijuana "garden."

Police in the shoreline town of Clinton arrested William Bradley, 46, on Monday following a six-month investigation.

In the video, a man identifying himself as Bradley welcomes people to his garden and says he's growing marijuana because he has terminal cancer. He also solicits donations, saying he wants to give away marijuana to people who need it for medical reasons.

Police say they seized more than 2 pounds of marijuana and

other drugs Monday from a storage unit he used. Bradley was charged with drug crimes and detained on \$5,000 bail.

## State police probe milk tanker spill

**PA** NEW PARIS — State police have been investigating a tanker truck crash that spilled about 6,000 gallons of raw milk onto privately owned marsh and meadows in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Troopers from the Bedford barracks said the crash happened Saturday in East St. Clair Township, about 70 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, near New Paris.

Although milk isn't a hazardous material, it can kill fish and other aquatic life if it reaches a waterway in high concentrations.

Bedford County emergency management director David Cubison said crews worked for hours to contain the spill, while Penelco workers were called to fix power lines downed by the crash.

## Chicken farm closes 2nd time after roach cleanup

**CA** LIVINGSTON — A California chicken farm that reopened over the weekend after it was shut because of a cockroach infestation said it's "voluntarily and temporarily" suspending operations again.

Foster Farms said Sunday it was closing the plant in Livingston for several days so it can properly implement new food safety measures. The company said in a statement that it is "exercising vigilance" and dedicating additional time to ensure its preventative plan is realized.

Work had resumed Saturday after Foster Farms announced that it met the demands of the U.S. Department of Agriculture by performing a thorough cleanup and treatment of the plant.

The plant closed Jan. 8 when inspectors found the cockroaches on five separate occasions in various parts of the plant over four months. That closure came three months after inspectors threatened a shutdown because of salmonella problems at the Livingston plant and two Foster Farms sites in Fresno.

## Police officers allege bias in reassignments

**TX** AUSTIN — More than a dozen Austin police officers have filed complaints with the state alleging racial and age discrimination in the wake of staff reassignments.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the complaints submitted in recent weeks with the Texas Workforce Commission are a required step before a lawsuit can be filed.

The department last summer

reassigned 19 supervisors and officers who were part of a prominent organized crime division. They were transferred from coveted positions to jobs that include night patrol shifts.

Thirteen of the officers filed complaints with the commission. Nearly all of them are black or Hispanic officers in their 50s.

Police officials have said the division needed a staffing overhaul, and that such transfers are not uncommon for specialized units where burnout can be a problem.

## Man is accused of illegally feeding moose

**AK** ANCHORAGE — An Anchorage man is accused of illegally feeding cabbage to multiple moose on his property, according to Alaska State Troopers.

Troopers received a tip last month that Samuel Becker, 67, had been feeding moose. They said they responded Jan. 4 and determined Becker had illegally fed the animals the day of their visit.

Becker was issued a summons to appear in court Feb. 3 to face a misdemeanor charge of intentionally feeding game, Troopers spokeswoman Megan Peters said.

The misdemeanor carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$10,000 fine, she said. State prosecutors have not filed charges.

From wire reports



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## OPINION

## No common cause in Common Core

By GEORGE F. WILL

**V**iewed from Washington, which often is the last to learn about important developments, opposition to the Common Core State Standards Initiative still seems as small as the biblical cloud that ariseth out of the sea, no larger than a man's hand. Soon, however, this education policy will fill a significant portion of the political sky.

The Common Core represents the ideas of several national organizations (of governors and school officials) about what and how children should learn. It is the thin end of an enormous wedge. It is designed to advance in primary and secondary education the general progressive agenda of centralization and uniformity.

Understandably, proponents of the Common Core want its nature and purpose to remain as cloudy as possible for as long as possible. Hence they say it is a "state-led," "voluntary" initiative to merely guide education with "standards" that are neither written nor approved nor mandated by Washington, which would never, ever "prescribe" a national curriculum. Proponents talk warily when describing it because a candid characterization would reveal yet another Obama administration indifference to legality.

The 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the original federal intrusion into this state and local responsibility, said "nothing in this act" shall authorize any federal official to "mandate, direct, or control" schools' curriculums. The 1970 General Education Provisions Act stipulates that "no provision of any applicable program shall be construed to authorize any 'federal agency or official' to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction" or selection of "instructional materials by

any" school system.

The 1979 law creating the Department of Education forbids it from exercising "any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum" or "program of instruction" of any school system. The ESEA as amended says no Education Department funds "may be used ... to endorse, approve, or sanction any curriculum designed to be used in" grades K-12.

Nevertheless, what begins with mere national standards must breed ineluctable pressure to standardize educational content. Targets, metrics, guidelines and curriculum models all induce conformity in instructional materials.

Washington already is encouraging the alignment of the GED, SAT and ACT tests with the Common Core. By a feedback loop, these tests will beget more curriculum conformity. All of this will take a toll on parental empowerment, and none of this will escape the politicization of learning like that already rampant in higher education.

Leave aside the abundant, fierce, often learned and frequently convincing criticisms of the writing, literature and mathematics standards. Even satisfactory national standards must extinguish federalism's creativity. At any time, it is more likely there will be half a dozen innovative governors than one creative federal education bureaucracy. And the mistakes made by top-down federal reforms are *continental* mistakes.

The Obama administration has purchased states' obedience by partially conditioning waivers from onerous federal regulations (from No Child Left Behind) and receipt of federal largess (\$4.35 billion in Race to the Top money from the 2009 stimulus) on the states' embrace of the Common Core. Although 45 states and the District of Columbia have struck this

bargain, most with little debate, some are reconsidering and more will do so as opposition mounts.

Many proponents seem to deem it beneath their dignity to engage opponents' arguments, preferring to caricature opponents as political primitives and to dismiss them with flippancies such as this from Bill Gates: "It's ludicrous to think that multiplication in Alabama and multiplication in New York are really different."

What is ludicrous is Common Core proponents' disdaining concerns related to this fact: Fifty years of increasing Washington inputs into K-12 education has coincided with disappointing cognitive outputs from schools. Is it eccentric that it is imprudent to apply to K-12 education the federal touch that has given us HealthCare.gov?

The rise of opposition to the Common Core illustrates three healthy aspects of today's politics. First, new communication skills and technologies enable energized minorities to force new topics onto the political agenda.

Second, this uprising of local communities against state capitals, the nation's capital and various muscular organizations (e.g., the Business Roundtable, the Chamber of Commerce, teachers unions, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) demonstrates that although the public agenda is malleable, a sturdy portion of the public is not.

Third, political dishonesty has swift, radiating and condign consequences. Opposition to the Common Core is surging because Washington, hoping to mollify opponents, is saying, in effect: "If you like your local control of education, you can keep it. Period." To which a burgeoning movement is responding: "No. Period."

Will is a member of the Washington Post Writers Group.

## French not so blase about leaders' sex lives

By JOSHUA KEATING

State

**T**he old stereotype is that puritanical American voters obsess about their leaders' sex lives while the French can't be bothered. Take, for instance, the contrast between Bill Clinton, whose extramarital affair dominated American politics for years, and Francois Mitterrand, who was somehow able to spend most of the nights of his presidency staying with a second family without the press, public or political opposition taking notice. (Both "widows" attended his funeral.)

But for a country that supposedly doesn't care about politicians' sex lives, we seem to hear an awful lot about French politicians' sex lives. A policy advisory by deeply unpopular President Francois Hollande this week was overshadowed by tabloid reports that he has been having an affair with actress Julie Gayet. First lady Valerie Trierweiler has been hospitalized for unclear reasons.

France was supposed to be Monsieur Normal, an appealingly bland return to sanity after the tabloid distractions of the Nicolas Sarkozy years. But his messy personal life has been on display almost from the beginning with his partner, Trierweiler, carrying on a very public feud with Hollande's ex, former presidential candidate Segolene Royal.

It's true that 77 percent of French voters say the affair should be a personal matter and 84 percent say it won't change their (very negative) opinion of Hollande. But



**French president-elect Francois Hollande kisses his companion, Valerie Trierweiler, new hospitalized after news broke last week that Hollande was having an affair, in May 2012.**

with all due respect to the French, I don't buy this for a second. The gossip magazine Closer sold out the issue featuring photos of Hollande pulling up to Gayet's apartment. The first question at this week's press conference, which was supposed to be devoted to policy issues, from the head of the Presidential Press Association, was whether Trierweiler is still first lady. (Hol-

lande ducked it.)

It's true that the mainstream media in France was slow to jump on this until the Closer photos forced the issue, but the blogosphere has been buzzing about Hollande and Gayet for almost a year.

To be sure, the French aren't quite Americans yet. It's almost impossible to imagine the global-media-dominating seismic Dreyfusgate that would result if President Barack Obama were ever photographed being dropped off by motorcycle at a Hollywood starlet's apartment. The U.S. hasn't even elected an unmarried president since James Buchanan, much less one who has had relationships with three different very famous women, none of whom he has married.

In terms of the media's attitude toward what's acceptable to cover about presidents, things haven't actually been this way in the U.S. for that long. John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt would find today's U.S. media about as uncomfortable as Mitterrand. U.S. voters are fairly realistic about this, with the majority saying that greater scrutiny rather than falling morals are the reason why there are more political sex scandals today.

The French may never have been quite as blasé about political sex as they like to pretend, but a number of factors including the Internet and the British and American tabloid media's insatiable hunger for French sex scandals are making it harder for the mainstream French media to downplay these stories or for French citizens to act like they're not interested.



## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### Gun control and states' rights The Paris (Tenn.) Post-Intelligencer

Didn't we fight the Civil War over whether federal law prevails over states' rights?

Now, conservative lawmakers in several states are attempting to organize defiance of certain federal laws, beginning with gun control. Their idea is that if enough states band together, they can overwhelm Uncle Sam's enforcement power.

A measure introduced last week in the Missouri Legislature seeks to prevent some federal gun control regulations from being enforced. State law enforcement officials who attempt to enforce the federal rules would be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

That body came within one vote of passing a similar measure last year. This year's proposal, The Associated Press reported, delays the effective date of the rebellious rules to give other states time to join the cause.

Sounding for all the world like a Confederate organizer, one Missouri senator said, "We continue to see the federal government overreach their rightful bounds, and if we can create a situation where we have some unity among states, then I think it is a better position to make that argument."

Courts have consistently ruled that states do not have the power to nullify federal laws, but that doesn't keep the restless from trying.

Last year, for example, a federal appeals court struck down a 2009 federal law that would bar federal regulation of guns that are made in that state and which remain within its borders.

Open defiance is not the right path. The proper arena for this struggle is neither Fort Sumter nor the Supreme Court, but Congress. Obviously, many Americans sympathize with the objection to gun control laws, so let their elected representatives sort this out, using the procedure spelled out in the U.S. Constitution.

### More to the Haiti story The Miami Herald

Four long and painful years after a cataclysmic earthquake leveled Port-au-Prince and much of Haiti, the country is emerging from the depths of the disaster. Rebuilding is replacing recovery. A measure of order is replacing the chaos of the early years.

Most of the rubble is gone. Where once the capital's streets and surrounding areas housed 1,500 makeshift camps for about 1.5 million refugees, the numbers were down considerably near year's end: 175,000 remained in 306 camps. Ten new hurricane shelters are being built; the country boasts 180-plus miles of newly paved roads, there are 46 new health centers and seven new hospitals. And so on.

This is progress, but hold the applause. The numbers don't tell the full story.

Too much time has been wasted in re-cremations among the government of President Michel Martelly, the country's leaders and the international aid groups that receive much of the money directly. Political disarray has blocked elections. Tens of thousands were forcibly evicted from camps, with no safe place to go, and many more face the same prospect in 2014.

Billions of dollars in promised aid remain unspent, and international aid groups have been slow to arrive because of a lack of confidence in the government.



Iran's heavy water nuclear facility near the central city of Arak is shown in January 2011. Iran and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany have agreed to start implementing the terms of an interim deal over the Islamic Republic's contested nuclear program.

Nearly 700,000 suspected cases of cholera have been detected, some 8,500 victims have died and the epidemic still rages.

Progress has come in fits and starts. The government is not all-powerful. Martelly and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe cannot wave a magic wand and resolve all the issues blocking the pace of recovery, but they are not helpless, either.

If Lamothe wants the international community to "trust us, give us the benefit of the doubt" — as he told Miami Herald reporter Jacqueline Charles in an interview — when it comes to receiving and disbursing aid funds, he must work harder to gain that trust by improving the transparency of his government.

The failure to hold elections has done much to tarnish Haiti's political class and undermine confidence in the government. The voting has been delayed for more than two years, which is simply unacceptable.

On this fourth anniversary of the earthquake, the Obama administration could take no better action to demonstrate its avowed concern for Haiti than to make good on its promise.

### Polio remains a threat The New York Times

It has been three years since the last new case of polio was reported in India. The country can now be declared polio-free.

India's victory is an important milestone in the global effort to eliminate polio. In 2013, just 250 people were paralyzed by polio.

But the viral disease remains a threat. The World Health Organization reported 359 new polio cases as of Dec. 10, 2013, up from 213 in December 2012. And the number of countries where polio is present rose to eight from four between December 2012 and December 2013, with polio spreading out of Nigeria into the Horn of Africa and from Pakistan into the Middle East. Violent conflict and distrust of vaccination programs are to blame.

Cases of polio in Pakistan, where skepticism of vaccination efforts remains after the revelation that the United States Central Intelligence Agency used a fake vaccination program in its hunt for Osama bin Laden, rose to 85 in 2013 from 58 in 2012. The WHO also reported 17 confirmed cases and 60 suspected cases of polio in 2013 in and along the borders of war-torn Syria, a country that had been free of polio for 14 years.

With eradication of polio so close, these nations need to redouble efforts to combat the disease. India can play a vital role. It

has welcomed experts from polio-affected countries and has sent medical officers to Nigeria to help with eradication initiatives there.

Pakistan is also enhancing its efforts. It has raised the salaries of vaccinators, created police and army escorts to ensure their safety and enlisted mullahs and imams to calm fears that vaccination is a Western plot.

In the most violent polio-affected areas, warring factions and rebel groups must be persuaded to embrace Unicef's strategy where they agree to cease hostilities long enough for health workers to reach vulnerable populations. India's technical and logistical success and Pakistan's efforts to enlist trusted local leaders are important examples to follow.

All of those tactics will be necessary to eradicate polio in 2014 and to ensure that by 2018 this terrible virus is gone for good.

### Important step on Iran's nukes The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Negotiations on Iran's nuclear program and the international economic sanctions against it took another step forward Sunday as the two sides reached agreement on a starter deal.

The United States has three negotiations going, all related to the Middle East. Those are the Israeli-Palestinian talks, the Syrian peace talks set to begin in Switzerland Jan. 22 and the Iran discussions.

The agreement reached in Geneva, with Secretary of State John Kerry leading the U.S. delegation, contains a complex series of measures, but the basic thrust is that Iran will freeze its nuclear program and accept extensive inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency while the other countries involved take steps to ease the economic pressures on Iran.

All of it is subject to reversal and all of it is temporary, with the truly difficult negotiations still ahead. At the same time, the accord that has been reached is an important step in reducing Iran's nuclear threat to Israel and its Middle Eastern neighbors. On the other side, it eases up on the punitive actions the United States and other Western countries have imposed on Iran's leaders and its 80 million people.

Opposition to the agreement exists in both the United States and Iran from hardliners. In Washington they are influenced by part of the lobby for Israel, which opposes any measure it considers to be a concession to Iran, even if it involves placing strict limits on that country's nuclear program. In Iran, opposition comes from

the element in its politics that still seeks to promote hatred of America.

Fortunately, discouraging Congress from hamstringing Kerry's negotiations by putting new sanctions on Iran is the presence of the world's major powers with the United States on the international side of the table: China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom.

This is a positive development for peace in the Middle East, as well as an opening in U.S.-Iranian relations, which have been frozen since 1979. It was welcomed significantly in an interview with Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, a Sunni Muslim state and an American ally. Everyone else should see it as good news, too.

### Anti-abortion cycle renewed The Arizona Republic

After 41 years of court challenges to Roe vs. Wade, American abortion law is becoming a dense thicket of case law that makes tea-leaf reading difficult when jurists decline to explain their decisions.

That is what happened on Monday when the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to hear a case involving an Arizona law limiting when a woman could seek an abortion.

Last May, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a federal judge's ruling that Arizona's 2012 law House Bill 2036 was constitutional.

In its decision, the appeals court panel noted that "controlling Supreme Court precedent" forbids states from denying women the right to an abortion "at any point prior to viability."

Viability — the ability to survive outside the womb — is generally considered to occur at 22 to 24 weeks, not at 20 weeks.

The appeals-court decision affects only Arizona, however.

At least 19 other states have laws that ban abortions at 20 weeks, and those laws will remain in effect. If that seems confusing, it should.

It may be that Arizona's law pushed the viability envelope a bit too far. The law is structured so that, in practice, it could affect pregnancies that are only 18 weeks along.

Regardless, we know what the outcome of this nondiscussion by the high court will be: The process will begin anew.

Advocates who oppose abortion already have declared their intent to bring a new proposal to the Legislature, where it's likely to pass.

Then, it is off to the courts once again. Lawyers need not fear unemployment.



Frazz



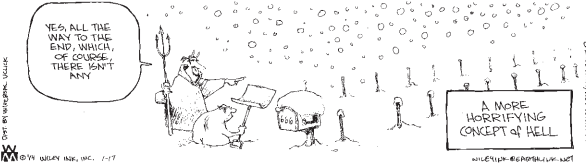
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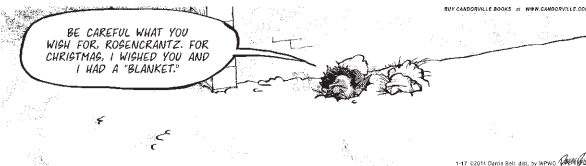
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15				16				17				
18				19								
20				21				22			23	24
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31	32	33						34				
35						36		37				
38						39	40			41	42	43
						45				46		47
48	49	50	51								52	
53								54			55	
56								57			58	

### ACROSS

- 1 "NCIS" network
- 4 Astronaut Grissom
- 7 Oyster's gift
- 12 Knock
- 13 Gorilla
- 14 Pain book, "Going —"
- 15 Bobby of hockey lore
- 16 Pianist's timekeeper
- 18 Mine output
- 19 Pry
- 20 Requisite
- 22 "CSI" evidence
- 23 Start a garden
- 27 "Of course"
- 29 Courage
- 31 In any way
- 34 15-Across' disks
- 35 Gold, silver and bronze

58 Conger or moray

### DOWN

- 1 Sing like Bing
- 2 Wilkes —, Pa.
- 3 Binge
- 4 Shapely legs
- 5 Tips over
- 6 Attack
- 7 Item on stage
- 8 A billion years
- 9 Way back when
- 10 Mojito ingredient
- 11 Tommy — Jones
- 17 Wander
- 21 "Like a Rolling Stone" singer
- 23 Bearcat maker
- 24 List-ending abbr.
- 25 Wapiti
- 26 Moines lead-in
- 28 Right angle
- 30 Green org.
- 31 Pump up the volume
- 32 Ball-bearing item
- 33 Noshed
- 36 Stuff like that
- 37 Check payee, at times
- 40 Hill
- 42 Match
- 43 Nary a soul
- 44 Mountain air?
- 45 Grand-scale
- 48 Witticism
- 49 Outback bird
- 50 Erstwhile M&Ms color
- 51 Singer DiFranco

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	D	Z	B	E	E	F	S	L	E	D
L	E	O	U	V	E	A	H	A	R	E
F	O	O	T	B	A	L	A	R	I	A
			T	U	B		S	L	A	N
			H	U	S	T	L	E	S	U
E	M	U	E	G	G	F	O	R	D	S
A	B	I	T	O	U	T	N	O	A	H
L	O	T	U	S	M	A	C	O	H	O
			T	I	T	J	O	S	T	L
D	E	C	O	R	U	M	S	O	B	
O	V	E	R	B	O	O	T	L	E	G
R	I	D	E	E	L	B	A	E	N	E
P	L	E	D	S	T	I	R	R	U	E

I-17

### CRYPTOQUIP

BI UQK LN-GUOP NI "ZNJK  
GUNPC" BG QOJBDX OD  
KRNUBNDZOZ NSUHSFGU, QK

RBXQU HK LPCBD' N'DKOZ.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'VE HEARD THAT COMPANIES ARE ADDING AROMAS TO CERTAIN DEVICES AND CALLING THEM "SMELLPHONES."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals I



Frazz



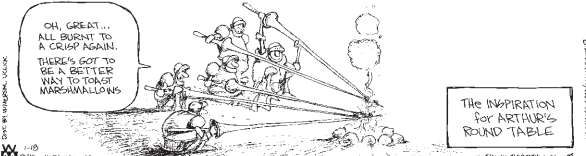
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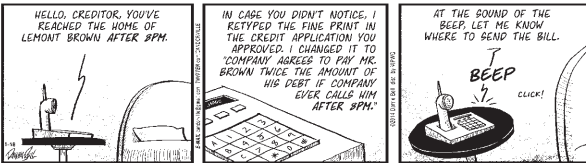
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



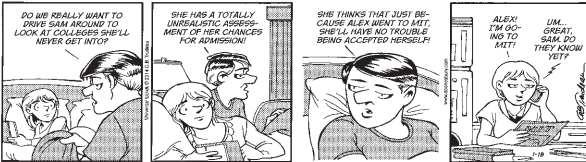
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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15				16					17				
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38	39	40						41			42	43	44
45								46			47		
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51								52			53		

### ACROSS

- Credo
- Low singer
- Viper's weapon
- Coloring agent
- Greatly
- Medley
- Navy newbie (Abbr.)
- Old Italian bread
- Paella ingredient
- Hester Prynne's symbol
- Longing
- Jay's follower
- WWII sub
- Fave
- Mandible
- Jazz flutist Herbie
- On in years
- Flaky dough (Var.)
- Sailor's assent
- Holly's partner
- Star's bit part
- Dogfight participant
- Arctic diver
- Nacre
- Shrek, e.g.
- Wield scissors
- Prompt
- Urgent request
- Farm fraction
- Coop denizen
- Progeny
- Garden intruder

- "Guinness Book" suffix

- Serenade the moon
- Indivisible
- Thickness
- Cramer of CNBC
- Pub order
- Court
- Supervised
- Phony
- Kind of cube
- Like beggars' hands
- Winning
- Blazing
- Broom closet items
- Give the eye
- Genealogy chart
- Never again?
- Analgesic target
- Wishes otherwise
- Fast time

### DOWN

- Midmonth date
- Harmonization
- Arizona city
- Bolshoi performance
- Extraterrestrial
- Categorize
- Pursued obsessively
- Two score
- Settled down
- Pleasant
- No stay-at-home
- Reynolds or Gosling
- Chow down
- Ms. Thurman

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

CBS	GUS	PEARL
RAP	APPE	ROGUE
ORR	METRON	OME
ORE	SNOOP	
NEED	DNA	SEED
YES	METTLE	
ATAUL	PUCKS	
METALS	BAT	
PEEN	USE	ZANY
	ECLAT	GOO
METAPH	CLARS	ROD
OMANI	PEA	ENE
TUNIC	ERR	EEL

1-18

CRYPTOQUIP

QNQDE KVDU MZRRJPA WDVQ  
FBZF WQCCVK'R OYVFB JR  
NQDE BVPQRF ZPU ZHHYDZLFQ.

B Q Y R Q R F D Y F B - M Z R F Q .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE CO-STAR OF "LOVE STORY" IS HAVING AN EMOTIONAL OUTBURST, HE MIGHT BE CRYIN' O'NEAL.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals H



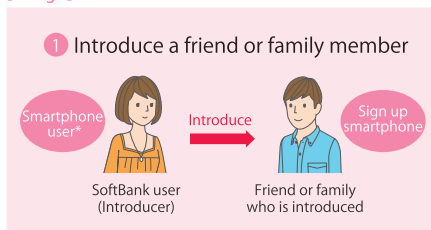
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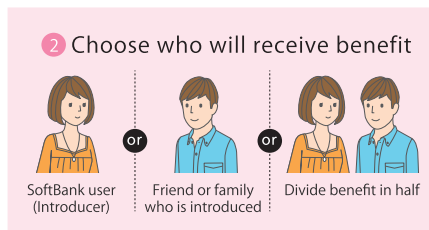
When a SoftBank user introduces a friend or family member  
who sign up for a new SoftBank subscription,

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[Image]



\*SoftBank smartphone user who signed up by 18 Dec. 2013.



[Benefit] Choose one of below.

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(1,000yen × 12 months)

or

**SoftBank Points 15,000pt.**  
(1,250pt. × 12 months)

○ Disney Mobile user can only choose 12,000yen discount.

[Beneficiary] Choose who will receive benefit.

■ Introducer ■ Friend or family who is introduced ■ Divide benefit in half

○ When "Divide benefit in half" is chosen, benefit will be added to both accounts for 6 months. Both users need to choose the same benefit.

[Conditions]

Introducer

- SoftBank existing user (including Disney Mobile) who purchased iPhone / smartphone and signed up by 18 Dec. 2013.
- Subscribing White Plan, S!Basic Pack, and designated Flat-rare Packet Data Discount.

Friend or family  
who is introduced

- Purchasing SoftBank iPhone / smartphone (including Disney Mobile) with a new subscription or MNP (Switchover from other carrier).
- Subscribing White Plan, S!Basic Pack, and designated Flat-rare Packet Data Discount.

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# HIGH SCHOOL



MICHAEL DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Eduardo Castaneda of Vilseck, top, and Johnathan Brabazon from Patch look to their coaches for advice during their match on Dec. 7. The DODDS-Europe wrestling season resumes Saturday with 20 teams in action at four sites. Vilseck will be wrestling at home, while Patch travels to Kaiserslautern.

## Back to the mats

European contenders should come into focus as wrestling returns from break

BY GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

The DODDS-Europe wrestling season resumes Saturday with 20 teams in action at four sites. Here's a look at where a few of those teams stand entering the season's final stretch.

**Lakenheath:** Confined mostly to sharing meets with northern neighbors such as Alconbury, Brussels, SHAPE and AF-NORTH, Lakenheath will get a long look at its Germany-based Division I wrestling competition over the next couple of weekends.

On Saturday, the Lancers will share brackets with Patch and host Kaiserslautern; they'll find Wiesbaden among their opponents a week later in Brussels.

Lakenheath entered the break on a dominant note, piling on 260 team points and claiming first place in 11 of 14 weight classes to run away with a five-team meet at Alconbury.

**Kaiserslautern:** The hometown Raiders are looking forward to testing themselves against the visiting Lancers, head coach Brian Daly said.

Specifically, European hopefuls Matt Fischer (120 pounds) and Arvin Hrushka (170) will find worthy foes in Lakenheath's Preston Booth and Cotten Menges, respectively.

**Alconbury:** Like fellow U.K. program Lakenheath, coach David Longbine's Dragons will indulge the rare regular-season opportunity to test their roster on

the mainland Saturday.

Senior Zain Leach and sophomore Chris Dufresne are unbeaten at 182 and 195 pounds, respectively; their duels with Kaiserslautern and Patch contenders might be previews of final-day European tournament matches. Sophomore Nick Dufresne, meanwhile, will return from an injury to see where he stands in the crowded 170-pound ranks.

**Wiesbaden:** The Warriors will travel to Vilseck with hopes of rekindling the momentum they gathered before the break.

Coach Christopher Evans said junior Hunter Lunasin is becoming "something of a dominant force" at 220 pounds, and senior Justin Vatcher should find himself in the heat of 182-pound competition at the European tournament.

Interestingly enough, two of Wiesbaden's top wrestlers share a weight class at 152 pounds; Evans said seniors Brayden Lamb and Alex Wieman might place first and second — not necessarily in that order — "every weekend including Europeans."

Finally, Evans said he's looking forward to seeing his bigger wrestlers face off with Vilseck, which is notorious for its strength in the upper weight classes and is stacked again this year behind 195-pounder Kraig Sumpter and 285-pound heavyweight Armando Saldana.

**Bitburg:** The Barons have just seven wrestlers on their roster, but they're young and quickly improving as they travel to Kaiserslautern for Saturday's meet. Sophomore Kaleb Hoopes is a solid entry at 106 pounds, and freshman Cameron Castillo is an emerging force at 145. The young squad also has a measure of experience in junior Brandon Beaumont, a European semifinalist last year at 113 pounds who is now excelling at 126.

broome.gregory@stripes.com  
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## Game of the week

### Boys basketball: Vilseck at Hohenfels, Saturday

Hohenfels' feel-good story might meet its first plot twist at the hands of the visiting Falcons.

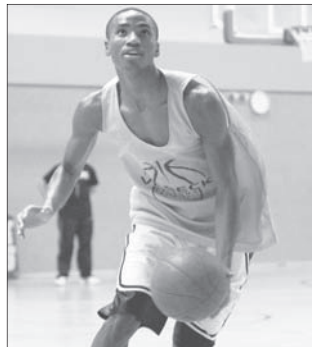
The Division II Tigers have chased last year's discouraging 1-13 effort with nothing short of a full athletic renaissance, a 6-0 boys hoops start bathed in the flattering light of the school's surprise European football title.

The Tigers struggled in close games last year, and were punished with a record that didn't live up to the promise of the talent on hand. Their unrealized potential was painfully embodied on a January visit to Heidelberg in which they outplayed the host Lions for much of the weekend before suffering two losses by a combined six points. Interestingly, the only game that didn't escape the Tigers' grasp last year was a 55-53 win over Vilseck on Dec. 7, 2012.

Whether it's enhanced confidence or improved late-game decision-making, this year's team has reversed that trend. Hohenfels beat Black Forest Academy twice by a total of three points to open its season, and gritted out a 39-35 win over Ansbach on Friday before earning a more comfortable win the next day.

"We're excited," point guard Mark Carr said after Saturday's 48-32 win. "We worked hard to be better and it feels good to win, especially because of how much we lost last year."

— Gregory Broome, Stars and Stripes



MICHAEL DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

David Harris and his Vilseck teammates will travel to undefeated Hohenfels on Saturday.

## Three more key matchups

### Boys basketball ISB vs. SHAPE, Friday at SHAPE, Saturday at Brussels

The holiday break was just a little longer for this pair of Benelux rivals, each of whom will play their first DODDS game in more than a month Friday.

Both teams fared well before the break. SHAPE won its only game decisively, a 52-38 win over AFNORTH on Dec. 7. ISB got off to a 4-1 start in December, a run that included a double-digit win over Brussels and an upset of Division I Lakenheath.

It's unclear where the Spartans stand as Division II European title contenders. But the veil of mystery is about to lift. With its light early schedule behind them, the Spartans will be in action every weekend for the balance of the regular season, an eight-game stretch that includes two visits from Lakenheath.

### Girls basketball BFA at Wiesbaden, Friday and Saturday

The Warriors have bigger games looming against the likes of Division I rivals Ramstein and Kaiserslautern. But this weekend's scrappy Division II visitors should not be overlooked.

Though just 2-2 on the season, Black Forest Academy nearly pulled off a stunning upset Friday at Ramstein. The Falcons trailed by just five at the break and played the Royals to a second-half draw in a 42-37 loss.

Wiesbaden doesn't look particularly vulnerable, having opened the season by beating defending champion Kaiserslautern in a rematch of last year's European title game. The Warriors are also DODDS-Europe's only remaining unbeaten Division I team. But they'll need to stay on top of their game to remain there come Saturday night.

### Girls basketball Naples at Sigonella, Friday and Saturday

An usual Division III contender and occasional giant-slayer, Sigonella missed its first chance at upending the Italian hoops power structure last weekend when it lost both halves of a Friday-Saturday set at Division II Aviano.

The Jaguars will try again in a catfight with the visiting Wildcats, who will bring a perfect 4-0 record into Sicily.

Wins over Vicenza before the break and routs of Marymount after have Naples cruising towards the postseason and an expected central role in the Division II European tournament. It will take a strong effort from Sigonella to throw the Wildcats off course, but the Jaguars have been capable of such surprises in the past and could be again.

## Schedule

### Basketball Friday

AFNORTH at Alconbury  
ISB at SHAPE  
Lakenheath at American School of London  
Bitburg at Ansbach  
Ramstein at Baumholder  
Black Forest Academy at Wiesbaden  
Patch at Schweinfurt/Bamberg  
Marymount at Aviano  
Florence at Vicenza  
Naples at Sigonella

### Saturday

AFNORTH at Alconbury  
SHAPE at ISB  
Merwitz Hill at ACS-Hillingdon  
Bitburg at Ansbach  
Baumholder at Ramstein

Black Forest Academy at Wiesbaden  
Patch at Schweinfurt/Bamberg  
Vilseck at Hohenfels  
Marymount at Aviano  
Florence at Vicenza  
Naples at Sigonella

### Wrestling Saturday

SHAPE, Brussels, Ramstein, Baumholder at AFNORTH  
Bitburg, Patch, Lakenheath, Alconbury at Kaiserslautern  
Wiesbaden, Hohenfels, Ansbach, BFA at Vilseck  
Vicenza, Aviano, Sigonella, AOSR at Naples

### Marksmanship Saturday

Alconbury, Wiesbaden, Patch, Bitburg at Baumholder  
Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, Vicenza, Vilseck at Hohenfels



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# HIGH SCHOOLS: DODDS PACIFIC

## Schedule

<b>Japan</b> <b>Basketball</b> <b>Boys</b> <b>Friday, Jan. 17</b> ASU at Yokota, Zama at St. Mary's <b>Friday, Jan. 17-Saturday, Jan. 18</b> Japanese teams at Edglen <b>Saturday, Jan. 18</b> Kinnick at CAJ <b>Girls</b> <b>Friday, Jan. 17</b> CAJ at Zama <b>Friday, Jan. 17-Saturday, Jan. 18</b> Japanese teams at Edglen <b>Saturday, Jan. 18</b> Kinnick at ASU <b>Wrestling</b> <b>Saturday, Jan. 18</b> Kinnick, Yokota, St. Mary's, Zama American and Christian Academy Japan at American School in Japan	<b>South Korea</b> <b>Basketball</b> <b>Blue Division</b> <b>Friday, Jan. 17</b> SAHS at YIS-Seoul, Humphreys at Osan <b>Saturday, Jan. 18</b> Osan at YIS-Seoul <b>Wrestling</b> <b>Saturday, Jan. 18</b> meets begin at 9 a.m. <b>Saturday, Jan. 18</b> Daegu, Humphreys, Osan and Korean teams at Seoul <b>Okinawa</b> <b>Basketball</b> <b>Boys</b> <b>Friday, Jan. 17-Sunday, Jan. 19</b> Kadena and Kubasaki in Martin Luther King Invitational <b>Girls</b> <b>Friday, Jan. 17-Sunday, Jan. 19</b> Kadena and Kubasaki in Martin Luther King Invitational <b>Guam</b> <b>Basketball</b> <b>Boys</b> <b>Games begin at 5:30 p.m., except where noted</b> <b>Friday, Jan. 17</b> St. Paul at JFK, HCA at SSHS, St. John's at Okkodo, GW at FOMS, ND at Guam High <b>Saturday, Jan. 18</b> Okkodo at JFK, HCA at St. Paul, SSHS at St. John's, Southern at Guam, GW at ND
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## Three more key matchups

### Boys basketball Seoul American at Yongsan Int'l-Seoul

A win for the visiting Falcons would clinch the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Council Blue Division regular-season title and first-round bye in the league's postseason tournament next month at Taejon Christian International School.

## Game of the week

### Basketball: MLK Invitational

**When:** Friday-Sunday, Jan. 17-19.

**Where:** Semper Fit Gymnasium, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa.

**What:** First of two tournaments on consecutive weekends that comprise the bulk of the regular-season schedule for Kadena and Kubasaki, the most decorated programs in Far East High School Basketball Tournament history. Kadena's and Kubasaki's boys could get as many as six games and the girls as many as four in three days against adult teams that are generally bigger and more physical than what they're accustomed to playing.

**Players to watch:** Kubasaki's girls, who beat Kadena last month for the first time in the regular season since 2004, are fueled by their senior inside-outside combination of Alyah Johnson and Sydney Johnson. Kadena's girls rely on their veteran core featuring Jasmine Rhodes and Alicia Vaughan. Kadena's boys are triggered by point guard Jamarion Harris and inside veteran Preston Harris. The Dragons have many number of weapons, brothers Matthew and Nick Ashley, guards Jarrett Mitchell and DeQuan Alderman and inside man Kareem Key.

— Dave Ornauer



LISA TOURTEL/Stars and Stripes

**Kadena's Jasmine Rhodes shoots past Kubasaki's Ameyna Saunders-Jackson in a December matchup. The two teams take on adults this weekend in a Martin Luther King Day tournament in Okinawa.**

# Kubasaki, Kadena set for tournament

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

CAMPFOSTER, Okinawa—In-season tournaments have been a big role in why Kadena's and Kubasaki's boys and girls basketball teams are the most decorated in Far East Division I Tournament history, coaches say.

The next two weeks see the Panthers and Dragons entered in the Martin Luther King Invitational Tournament for adult teams at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, followed by the Okinawa-American Shootout with Japanese teams at the Risner Fitness Center on Kadena Air Base.

"It's always been an important part" of the schedule, said longtime Kadena boys head and assistant coach Robert Bliss, "but this year, that has increased because of the takeaways."

Bliss was referring to two tournaments no longer an option for either school: the New Year Classic and the Hong Kong International School Holiday tournament.

"We're happy for any kind of games. It's great that we get to play them" every year, Bliss said.

Marine Corps Community Services sponsors the MLK Tournament and has waived the entry fee for the high school teams since they began playing in the event in the mid-1990s.

The 11 men's and two women's adult teams in the MLK play "a lot more physical and we have to be ready to adjust to that style of play," Kubasaki girls coach Bob Driggs said.

Sandwiched between the MLK and the Shootout are semester final exams, limiting the amount of time the teams have for practice in the run-up to the tournament, coaches said.

The MLK and Shootout are "a good learning experience for us, but our base is being student-athletes," Driggs said of the finals.

Among featured matchups in Japan, Kinnick's girls visit American School In Japan in a rematch of last season's Far East D-I tournament final, won by the Red Devils. Reigning Far East D-II boys champion Zama American visits St. Mary's.

Among the outlying schools, M.C. Perry and E.J. King's basketball and wrestling teams have the weekend off. Edglen hosts Kamikita on Saturday in boys and girls basketball.

In South Korea, Seoul American's boys can clinch the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference Blue Division regular-season title with a win Friday at Yongsan International School-Seoul.

Guam High opens the boys basketball season with home games Friday and Saturday against Notre Dame and Southern.

On the mats, DODDS Korea's four teams get together Saturday at Seoul American for an individual tournament, while the Kanto Plain's six teams gather at ASIJ for a dual-meet tournament.

ornauer.dave@stripes.com

### Girls basketball Kinnick at American School in Japan

A rematch of last season's Far East Division I final, won by a Red Devils team that has been stripped of most of the components from that team except for returning point guard Alyshia Allison. The Mustangs also lost star guard Bessie Noll, now at Stanford.

### Wrestling Dual-meet tournament at American School in Japan

Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools' six teams battle at Musang Valley, an event featuring three returning Far East champions, Ryan Vasconcellos and Jeffrey Koo of St. Mary's International and Eric Overton of Christian Academy Japan.

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## WINTER OLYMPICS



Marco Trovati/AP

Mikaela Shiffrin skis past a pole on her way to the fastest time during the first run of Sunday's World Cup slalom in Bormio, Italy.

# The next big thing?

## Teenager Shiffrin ready to shine in Sochi

By PAT GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

**L**ike a typical teenager, Mikaela Shiffrin goes to the movies with friends, watches episodes of "Glee" and jams to all sorts of tunes in the privacy of her bedroom.

Of course, she's hardly your typical teen.

The 18-year-old may very well be the face of the Sochi Olympics, especially with Lindsey Vonn sitting this one out because of a right knee injury.

Shiffrin, the ski prodigy from Eagle-Vail, Colo., showed her promise by winning a World Cup slalom title last season. She's possibly the next big thing in skiing — once she adds more speed events to her calendar.

And next month, she will be introduced to a much wider audience on an even bigger stage.

Intimidating? Try investigating. "It's an exciting thought," Shiffrin wrote in an email. "I can't let myself think about it because I have enough on my mind."

Like learning how to care for her new reindeer, Rudolf.

He was part of the prize package for winning a slalom event in Levi, Finland, two months ago. Shiffrin recently ordered a book to "brush up on my reindeer care" for when she visits him (she's not allowed to take him home — Santa's rules).

And while her Rudolf doesn't fly, she does — on the slopes, anyway. She already has six career slalom wins, which is second



Marco Trovati/AP

Mikaela Shiffrin celebrates on the podium after winning Sunday's World Cup slalom in Bormio, Italy.

on the all-time slalom list among American women, trailing only Tamara McKinney's nine victories.

"She's a phenom," said Bill Marolt, the CEO and President of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association. "She has the athletic ability, the mental tenacity to do what

she's done and will continue to do."

Still, she's only a teenager and her support team tries to keep everything as routine as possible.

"Mikaela has a lot of talent," Vonn said in a recent interview, before announcing she was skipping the Sochi Games to undergo another surgery on her knee. "It's exciting to have new blood on the team."

Inevitably, Shiffrin draws comparisons to Vonn, which she considers "flattering." Shiffrin definitely has a lot in common with her idol, too.

Chief among them, winning races.

"Lindsey is a great athlete, a great skier, an icon in women's sports and a beautiful human being," said Shiffrin, who finished up high school last June by taking online classes through Burke Mountain Academy in Vermont. "So, of course, I will always be flattered to be compared to Lindsey."

For the moment, Shiffrin remains a technical specialist. Once she hones her technique, though, the plan is to have her compete in downhill and super-G competitions.

"Maybe by next season I will be ready for some speed events," she said. "In the meantime, I will keep training some SG and DH, which contributes to my technical progress and that gives me my speed fix for the time being."

These days, Shiffrin also tries to slalom her way through the pile of fan mail she's received. Her goal is to answer every letter, but has fallen way behind.

Even more could be waiting after Sochi.

# Davis more comfortable in spotlight

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
The Associated Press

KEARNS, Utah — Shani Davis was a star at the last two Olympics.

Only now does he seem comfortable with the role.

As he heads into what could be his final Winter Games, the 31-year-old U.S. speedskater has finally embraced the spotlight and come to terms with the remarkable legacy he'll leave behind no matter what happens in Sochi.

"It's my time," Davis said. "I'm going to try to take advantage of it, share myself and my story with the world as much as I can without it interfering with what I have to do."

Next month, he will attempt to become the first male skater to win the same event at three straight Olympics, having captured gold in the 1,000 meters at both Turin and Vancouver. Also, he's looking to improve on the pair of silver medals he settled for in the 1,500, switching up his training methods with the goal of peaking at just the right time.

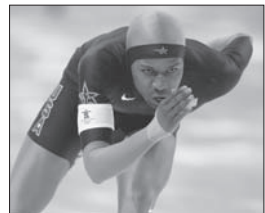
Davis' impact goes beyond gold and silver, though. He was the first black athlete to win an individual gold medal at the Winter Games, and he remains one of the few people of color at the oval. Growing up in Chicago, he passed on more traditional sports his friends played for the chance to go really fast with a pair of blades on his feet.

Beyond his Olympic accomplishments, Davis has firmly established himself as one of the greatest speedskaters ever for the better part of a decade. He followed Eric Heiden as the only male to capture both the world all-around and world sprint championships. Davis has 57 individual World Cup victories and a shot at passing the only man ahead of him, Canada's Jeremy Wotherspoon with 67.

Davis is not ready to retire just yet, but he has no idea if he'll still be skating four years down the road.

Now that he's older than most of the guys he's competing against, more work is required off the ice to make sure his body doesn't break down. After tearing a groin muscle last season, Davis is mindful of things he used to take for granted: extra laps after a race to cool down, staying hydrated, always getting in the cold baths and massages that help him recover.

"I'm a race car," Davis said mischievously. "I've got to put the best oil in it, get it tuned up, so on race day it goes the fastest."



HARRY E. WALKER/MCT

Shani Davis won gold in the 1,000 meters at the last two Olympics and will try to become the first male skater to win the event in three straight Olympics.



## OLYMPICS



Mike Groll/AP

Budding U.S. aerials star Ashley Caldwell considers herself a grizzled veteran after tearing the ACLs in both of her knees in a span of 363 days between 2011-12, though the injuries have done little to deter her from keeping her sights set on Sochi.

## US aerialist Caldwell never let focus waver after torn ACLs

By WILL GRAVES  
The Associated Press

Ashley Caldwell felt her left leg twist underneath her as she hit the ground. She heard the pop in her knee as the ACL ripped to shreds and understood right away what it meant.

Another long rehab. Another season of competition lost. Another hurdle in the budding aerialist's increasingly long path to Sochi.

But mostly the thought that kept running through the mind of ever blunt, ever optimistic Caldwell as she lay on the snow in Park City, Utah on Dec. 20, 2012 was, "Are you serious?"

"I felt gypped," Caldwell said with a combination of sarcasm and exasperation.

A year earlier Caldwell had torn the ACL in her right knee at the same venue. Now here she was, 363 days later, at the bottom of the same hill with the same searing pain in the one good knee she had left.

Forgive her if she can't help but laugh at the absurdity of it all.

"I had worked so hard, I came back, I qualified for jumps," she said. "I'm at the

**'I felt gypped ... I had worked so hard, I came back, I qualified for jumps ... It felt like it was very unfair.'**

Ashley Caldwell  
US Olympic aerialist

point where I'm not scared and I felt really confident and now here I am looking at going through the whole process again. It felt like it was very unfair."

And maybe unavoidable.

When Caldwell went in for her second surgery, her doctor admitted the channel for her right anterior cruciate ligament was so shallow, he figured there was a better than 50/50 chance she'd end up on the operating table again with the ACL in her left knee ripped to pieces. He took no joy in being right.

Funny, Caldwell has kind of enjoyed proving the doubters — including the ones inside her own head — wrong.

A month away from Sochi, Caldwell is in the mix to make her second U.S. Olympic team, just like she always planned after

finishing 10th in Vancouver four years ago.

A top-three finish at either Deer Valley, Colo., Val St. Come in Canada or Lake Placid, N.Y., over the next 10 days would make Caldwell a virtual lock to head to Russia. She's done her best to block out the math. If she jumps well, she knows she'll go. If she doesn't, she'll just end up watching it on TV.

It'll hurt, but then again, she's gotten used to managing expectations. If Russia doesn't work out, there's South Korea in 2018 to think about, or the 2022 Games for that matter.

"Nothing is guaranteed," Caldwell said. "I don't think my chances are lower, but I know have to work harder than most if I want to get there."



CARLO ALLEGRI/AP

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## NFL PLAYOFFS

# New kids on the block

With renewed focus on the run, Pats' tight ends are blocking more, catching less

By HOWARD ULMAN  
The Associated Press

**R**FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez were widely regarded as the top tight end duo in the NFL.

Michael Hoomanawanui and Matthew Mulligan are blocking in anonymity as their successors, helping pave the way for New England's return to the AFC championship game.

"The game, with the way it is now, no one ever talks about a blocking tight end," Patriots left guard Logan Mankins said Wednesday. "It is how many catches they have. The tight ends on our team have been vital to our running success."

The Patriots' ground attack is rolling — 267 and 234 yards in the last two games — as they head into Sunday's game at Denver that will determine whether they or the Broncos reach the Super Bowl.

New England won the first meeting between the teams this season, 34-31 in overtime in Foxborough on Nov. 24. Gronkowski caught a touchdown pass that day then

went out with a season-ending knee injury two weeks later. He already had missed the first six games while recovering from forearm and back surgeries and ended up playing

## By the numbers

**362**

Number of combined catches for New England tight ends Aaron Hernandez and Rob Gronkowski.

**53**

Number of combined catches for New England tight ends Matthew Mulligan and Michael Hoomanawanui.

**267**

Number of rushing yards the Patriots gained last week in its AFC divisional playoff game against Indianapolis.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

just seven games.

Hernandez was arrested in late June, charged with first-degree murder. He has pleaded not guilty.

He and Gronkowski combined for 106 catches and 16 touchdowns last season. In their three seasons together, they totaled 362 receptions for 56 touchdowns.

The totals for the tight ends the Patriots

will use against the Broncos?

Just 37 receptions in four seasons for Hoomanawanui and 16 receptions and two touchdowns in five seasons for Mulligan.

"They've lost key players and you've got to find your strength as a team once you do that," Broncos defensive tackle Terrence Knighton said. "They lost Gronkowski. He was a big part of their offense. So they've got to find other ways to beat teams."

The Patriots' offensive system is broad enough to accommodate stylistic changes at different positions so they can adjust when personnel change, offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels said.

"Mike and Matt have been a very big part of what we're doing," he said. "I know that they may not

have the production in terms of catches in the passing game, but that certainly doesn't diminish their role that they play for us in the pass game. They definitely do a nice job in protection."

They're also a major part of the running game.

"They don't get much credit for it, but you're never going to get to the edge if your tight end can't block," Mankins said. "There are a lot of plays that we run right behind those guys so they've got to do a good job for our backs to have success."

It's not that Hoomanawanui and Mulligan can't or don't want to catch the ball.

"Who wouldn't?" Hoomanawanui said. "It's always nice if you can be a factor in the passing game and the running game, but (we'll do) whatever it takes to win and, lately for us, that's been running the ball."

The Patriots have backs with different styles. LeGarrette Blount is powerful, Steven Ridley is elusive, Shane Vereen is small and fast, and Brandon Bolden combines those attributes.

"When you have four talented running backs, it's a great opportunity to go out there and



**CHAMPIONSHIP**

New England Patriots (13-4)  
at Denver Broncos (14-3)

AFN-Sports  
9 p.m. Sunday CET  
5 a.m. Monday JKT

showcase my skills as a blocker," Mulligan said, "because you know they're going to make you look good."

One of his two receptions this season was a 1-yard touchdown in a 30-23 win at Atlanta in the fourth game.

Hoomanawanui's only touchdown among his 12 catches was a spectacular one-handed grab for a 13-yard score in the 14th game. But the Patriots lost to the Miami Dolphins 24-20.

"I would have traded it for a win," he said.

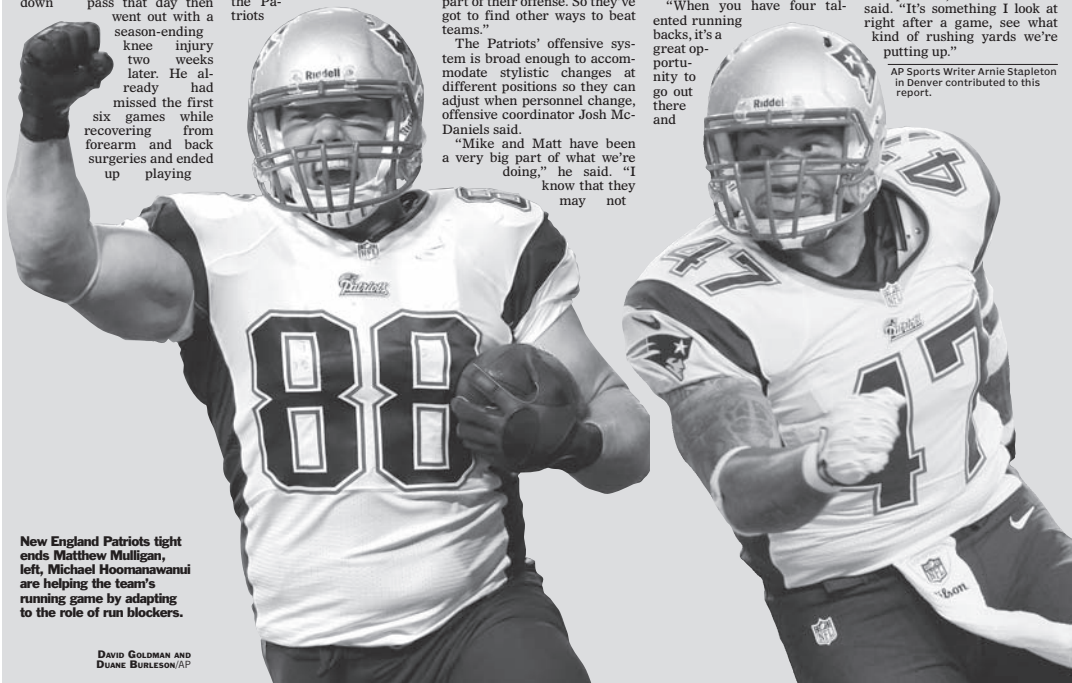
At least he finally got some recognition. Friends and family members still remind him of that catch. So did his former teammate at Illinois, Colts cornerback Vontae Davis. They saw each other last Saturday night when New England beat Indianapolis 43-22 in an AFC divisional-round game.

"It's something we definitely take pride in," Hoomanawanui said. "It's something I look at right after a game, see what kind of rushing yards we're putting up."

AP Sports Writer Arnie Stapleton in Denver contributed to this report.

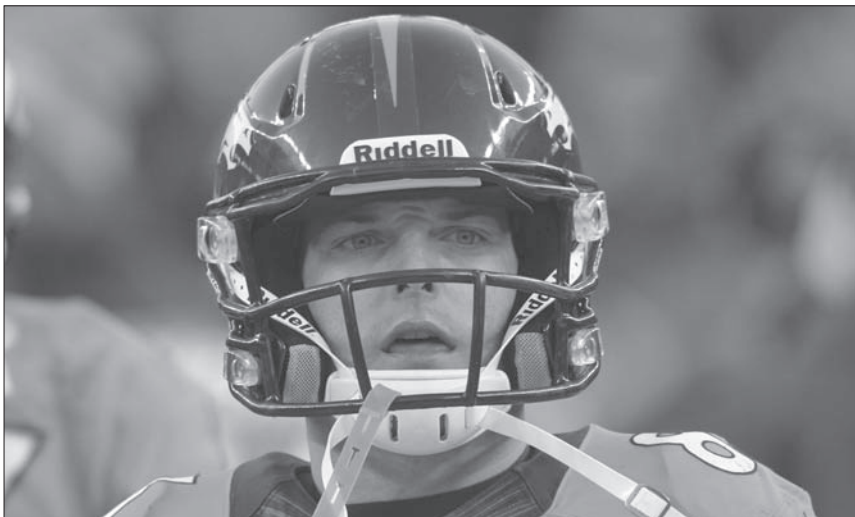
New England Patriots tight ends Matthew Mulligan, left, Michael Hoomanawanui are helping the team's running game by adapting to the role of run blockers.

DAVID GOLDMAN AND  
DAIANE BURLESON/AP





## NFL



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker has had the opportunity to play with two of the best quarterbacks in NFL history in Denver's Peyton Manning and New England's Tom Brady, but don't expect him to answer when pressed on which of the future Hall of Fame passers is better.

# Too close to call

## Welker says he can't pick between quarterbacks Manning and Brady

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — He traded Picasso for Michelangelo. Or maybe it was the other way around.

While John Elway famously said he had no Plan B when he signed Peyton Manning in 2012, Wes Welker certainly had one when the New England Patriots low-balled him on a contract offer last winter.

Welker jumped at the chance to team up with Manning in Denver, where he signed a two-year deal for \$12 million, \$1 million more per year than the Patriots had offered.

After spending six seasons as Tom Brady's top target in New England, Welker was Manning's leading receiver before missing the final month of the season with a concussion.

He still finished with 73 receptions for 778 yards and a career-best 10 TDs and added another in Denver's 24-17 win over San Diego in the AFC divisional round.

After an unhappy homecoming at Foxborough in November, when his blunder on a punt in the win led to a 34-31 loss to New England, Welker gets another chance to stick it to his old team Sunday when the Broncos and Patriots square off with a trip to the Super Bowl on the line.

Welker has been asked ever since his arrival in Denver to compare the two QBs with Hall

of Fame credentials, something he finds harder to do than to go across the middle with a menacing middle linebacker bearing down on him.

"It's like comparing Picasso and Michelangelo," he said. "It's hard to compare the two."

Welker isn't sure if he's a Michelangelo guy or a Picasso guy, either.

"I couldn't even tell you," Welker confessed, revealing he's less an art aficionado than he is a connoisseur of quarterbacks. "Somebody threw those names at me one time and I thought it sounded pretty good."

What sounded good to Manning was having Welker in the slot this season to team with Demaryius Thomas and Eric Decker on the outside and emerging tight end Julius Thomas to ensure one of them would always be single-covered — or even vice versa.

Along with rejuvenated running back Knowshon Moreno, all four caught 60 or more passes and reached the end zone at least 10 times apiece.

While Brady's done a masterful job of getting the Patriots to a third straight AFC title game despite having a new cast of ball-catchers, Patriots safety Steve Gregory said the Broncos' embarrassment of riches at receiver is evident when, at times, Welker becomes Manning's fourth or even fifth option.

"Yeah, it's impressive. You



**'It's like comparing Picasso and Michelangelo. It's hard to compare the two.'**

**Wes Welker**  
on playing with Broncos QB Peyton Manning, above left, as well as Patriots QB Tom Brady, above right.



know, Decker, Thomas — the two Thomases — and then Wes. We know what Wes is. Wes is a great receiver. He does a heck of a job in the slot and they have spots they move him around to. So, we're going to have to be on top of our 'A' game."

Welker, of course, was asked again this week about the differences between Brady and Manning, admittedly the only other quarterback he wanted to play for after being spoiled by all those spirals from 2007-2012.

"I'll try and answer this and be as indifferent as possible," he said. "There aren't too many differences. They are great quarterbacks. They do a great job of keeping guys accountable, and their leadership skills and everything else. They are two guys you want quarterbacking your team. It's a toss-up between those two."

The Broncos are sure glad they'll have Welker on their side Sunday.

"He's tough, because he's talented," cornerback Champ Bai-

ley said. "He's quick. He's fast. He's aggressive. He blocks well. I mean, there's not a part of his game that he's weak at. I'm very, very aware of that playing him over the years."

The meticulous Manning, known for his grinding work ethic, found a kindred spirit in Welker.

"I always assumed that he was an extremely competitive guy that loved football and a guy that loved to work, he loved to practice, the way he played — I saw him many a time play Colts vs. the Patriots — so to have him become a Bronco, all those things checked out," Manning said.

"He's a gym rat. He loves the game, loves to work after practice, loves to talk in meetings about routes that he thinks might have a chance to get open. He's very knowledgeable of defenses and how teams have played him in the past, whether they've double-covered him or whatever it may be."

"So he's been a fun guy to play with, I'll say that."

## Two: Manning will have TE Thomas for Pats rematch

### FROM BACK PAGE

"It was deja vu," Elway said on his weekly podcast on the team's website on Tuesday.

As Manning took the snap and stepped up, the pocket began to collapse around him, but he spotted tight end Julius Thomas open along the Broncos sideline. The pass was perfect, as was Thomas' tap dance until his momentum took him out of bounds at the 41.

Then, on third-and-6 from his 45, Manning hit Thomas for a 9-yard gain over the middle with 2:12 left.

A year ago, then-offensive coordinator Mike McCoy called for a run by undersized Ronnie Hillman on third-and-7 at about the same point in the game, which in turn ultimately led to a Baltimore touchdown with 31 seconds left.

This was the ultimate second chance, and Manning made good on it.

"Julius and I have spent a lot of time working on those particular routes, after practice, in practice," Manning said. "And that's one of the most rewarding parts of football, when you put that work in, off to the side and after practice, and it pays off for you in a game ... those two plays were certainly worth the hard work."

Thomas had just one career catch coming into this season, his third in the NFL, and he had been hurt on that one reception, no less. He even briefly considered giving up his dream of playing gridiron.

But this season, he broke Hall of Famer Shannon Sharpe's team record for tight ends by catching 12 touchdown passes and it was his emergence that freed up Manning's other targets — Demaryius Thomas, Eric Decker and Wes Welker, along with running back Knowshon Moreno — who all joined him with 10 or more touchdowns.

Thomas, who didn't play in the first match against the Patriots because of a knee injury, finished with six catches for 76 yards on Sunday, but none was longer — or bigger — than his 21-yarder.

"Third-and-17 was the play of the game," Elway said. "We had to pick it up, keep the chains moving, keep them off the field and not give them a chance and so that's where it was tremendous. The offensive line did a great job of protecting Peyton, Julius Thomas made a great catch dragging his feet on the sideline."

"But who knows where the game goes if we don't make that play? Those are the types of plays you have to make in playoff football to be able to advance."

And make the most of second chances.



## NFL PLAYOFFS

## AFC CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHUPS

By BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

Matchups for the AFC championship game Sunday between the New England Patriots and Denver Broncos at Sports Authority Field:

## Special teams

Denver PK Matt Prater broke the NFL record with a 64-yard field goal and might have the strongest leg in the league. But New England's Stephen Gostkowski is no slouch. Both are reliable in tight situations and from distance; in Denver's thin air, that's important.

Ryan Allen was sidelined with a right shoulder injury in the victory over Indianapolis, so their punting situation is somewhat uncertain. Of course, they hope they never have to punt the ball back to Manning.

Denver's Britton Colquitt is among the NFL's top punters.

The only game-breaker among the kick returners is Denver's Trindon Holliday, who must show he can hang onto the ball. Blount has done well on kickoff returns, including an 83-yarder.

New England's coverage units are strong, while Denver's are not nearly as stingy.

## When the Broncos (14-3) have the ball

Things are a lot more simple on Denver's offense. Sure, RB Knowshon Moreno has been a mainstay and had a career-best 224 yards on a career-high 37 carries in a November loss at Foxborough. And rookie Montee Ball can be a significant contributor.

But everyone knows this attack is all about QB **Peyton Manning** (right).

Manning broke Brady's single-season marks with 55 TD passes and 5,477 yards in the air, and the Broncos established an NFL record with 606 points. It would be the caper to one of the greatest careers in league history for Manning to get his second championship, and he has the supporting cast to do so.

The main problem is that New England has had his number. Manning is 4-10 against Brady, and the defenses schemed by Patriots coach Bill Belichick often have puzzled him.

The Patriots' defense, sparked by DE-LB Rob Ninkovich, DE Chandler Jones and LB Jamie Collins really has come on late in the season as Belichick kept plugging in new faces when regulars went down with injuries. That New England lost its best two defenders, DT Vince Wilfork and LB Jerod Mayo, and prospered is somewhat amazing.



## When the Patriots (13-4) have the ball

Run, baby, run. The Patriots? Yep.

While all four remaining teams in the playoffs have solid ground games,

New England has ridden the backs of its backs the most effectively.

Sure, QB Tom Brady is among the best ever and is seeking a fourth Super Bowl ring, but he's also among the smartest ever. Brady knows that if his trio of runners — **LeGarrette Blount** (left), **Steven Ridley** and **Shane Vereen** — are gouging the opponent, it's the best approach to keep at it.

Blount has been unstoppable recently, rushing for 431 yards and eight TDs in the last three games. He scored four times in the rout of Indianapolis last week and is the power back the Patriots have lacked for a while.

That they've gotten such production behind an offensive line that entered the season with some uncertainty has been impressive, too. Left guard Logan Mankins and left tackle Nate Solder anchor the group, which has allowed only six sacks in the last four games.

Give Brady time and it's a recipe for defeat for the opposition. So Denver has a dilemma: Would it rather force the clutch-passing Brady to go to the air or deal with the run game?

## Coaching

Belichick bested John Fox when Fox was coaching Carolina in the 2004 Super Bowl. Obviously, Belichick is seeking a fourth Super Bowl title, rare territory, and hasn't won it since the 2005. He'll come up with something on both sides of the ball that will trouble Denver.

Fox, who missed a month of the schedule after heart surgery, is a strong motivator, too, and is smart enough to keep the reins very loose on Manning. His background is in defense, but that's where the Broncos have struggled under him this season, in large part because they lost five defenders to IR and injuries to Woodyard and Bailey made them backups for most of 2013.

## Intangibles

Start with Brady having lost his last two Super Bowls and not playing particularly well in either of them.

Add in Manning seeking his third trip to the big game — and an emphatic stamp of approval as a championship QB.

The Broncos also are spurred on by their meltdown late in last year's playoff loss to Baltimore at home. New England is driven by no championships in nearly a decade.

Neither side will forget the regular-season meeting, either. Denver wants to replicate the first half in which it forced a slew of turnovers and went ahead 24-0. New England wants to carry the momentum from its second-half surge to victory.





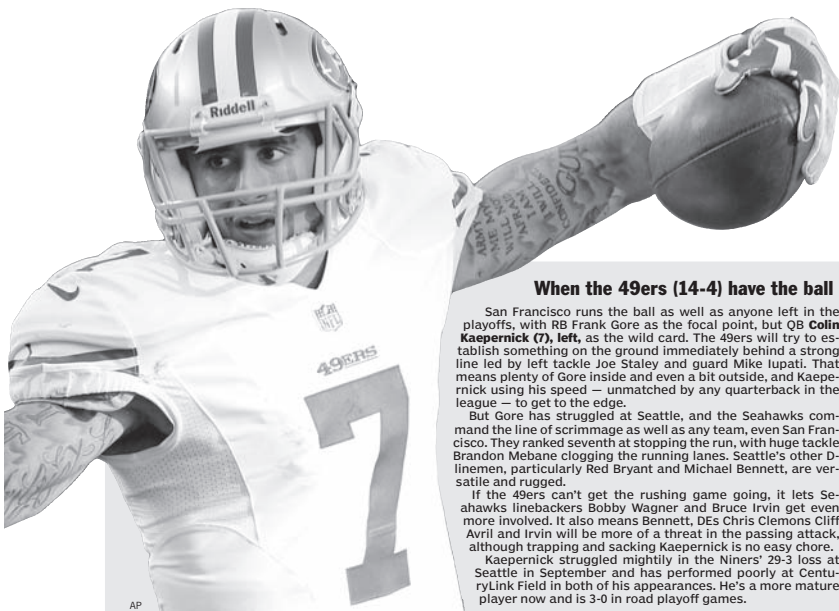
## NFL PLAYOFFS

## NFC CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHUPS

By BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

Matchups for the NFC championship game Sunday between the San Francisco 49ers and Seattle Seahawks at CenturyLink Field:



## When the 49ers (14-4) have the ball

San Francisco runs the ball as well as anyone left in the playoffs, with RB Frank Gore as the focal point, but QB **Colin Kaepernick (7)**, left, as the wild card. The 49ers will try to establish something on the ground immediately behind a strong line led by left tackle Joe Staley and guard Mike Iupati. That means plenty of Gore inside and even a bit outside, and Kaepernick using his speed — unmatched by any quarterback in the league — to get to the edge.

But Gore has struggled at Seattle, and the Seahawks command the line of scrimmage as well as any team, even San Francisco. They ranked seventh at stopping the run, with huge tackle Brandon Mebane clogging the running lanes. Seattle's other D-linemen, particularly Red Bryant and Michael Bennett, are versatile and rugged.

If the 49ers can't get the rushing game going, it lets Seahawks linebackers Bobby Wagner and Bruce Irvin get even more involved. It also means Bennett, Deshaun Watson, Cliff Avril and Irvin will be more of a threat in the passing attack, although trapping and sacking Kaepernick is no easy chore.

Kaepernick struggled mightily in the Niners' 29-3 loss at Seattle in September and has performed poorly at CenturyLink Field in both of his appearances. He's a more mature player now and is 3-0 in road playoff games.

## Special teams

No real big edges here unless Percy Harvin is healthy — he's a game-breaker on returns.

Golden Tate probably is the next-best weapon on either side running back kicks.

Both sides treasure the reliability of their kickers. San Francisco brought in veteran PK Phil Dawson as a free agent, after David Akers flopped last season. Dawson has excelled, and he beat Green Bay in the wild-card round with a final-second field goal through the frigid night air. Punter Andy Lee has been a perennial Pro Bowler.

Seattle counters with PK Steven Hauschka, who also has had a topnotch season, and Jon Ryan, who regularly buries punts deep in an opponent's territory.

## Coaching

Jim Harbaugh and Carroll have no love lost, dating to when they were at Stanford and Southern Cal and Harbaugh ran up the score, prompting Carroll to ask him, "What's your deal?"

Harbaugh's deal has been winning like no coach in San Francisco since Bill Walsh. This is the Niners' third straight trip to the NFC title game under him. He exudes confidence and, yes, arrogance, and it works for the 49ers.

Carroll's nonstop exuberance rubs off on his players, and no team is more aggressive, especially on defense, which is Carroll's specialty. He had some success in a previous head coaching stint with the Patriots, then went to USC and, since returning to the pros, Carroll has done a brilliant job turning the Seahawks into a championship contender.

## Intangibles

Playing in the same division means both sides are deeply familiar with each other; there won't be many secrets on display here.

That the Niners have struggled in the Pacific Northwest is, well, tangible: They were outscored 71-16 in their last two visits, Harbaugh's two worst losses. They're an experienced outfit in pressure situations, though, so the supersonic noise from the 12th Man in the stands shouldn't affect them.

But it has. And it figures to be louder than ever on Sunday.

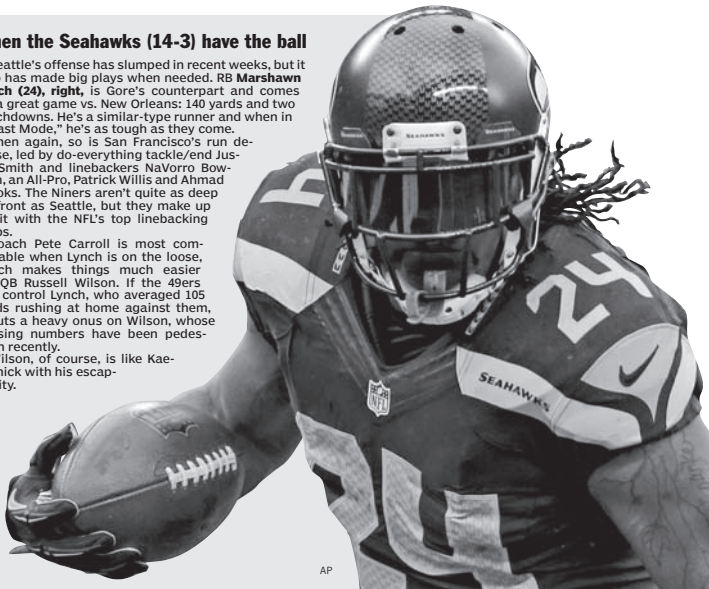
## When the Seahawks (14-3) have the ball

Seattle's offense has slumped in recent weeks, but it also has made big plays when needed. RB **Marshawn Lynch (24)**, right, is Gore's counterpart and comes off a great game vs. New Orleans: 140 yards and two touchdowns. He's a similar-type runner and when in "Beast Mode," he's as tough as they come.

Then again, so is San Francisco's run defense, led by do-everything tackle/end Justin Smith and linebackers NaVorro Bowman, an All-Pro, Patrick Willis and Ahmad Brooks. The Niners aren't quite as deep up front as Seattle, but they make up for it with the NFL's top linebacking corps.

Coach Pete Carroll is most comfortable when Lynch is on the loose, which makes things much easier for QB Russell Wilson. If the 49ers can control Lynch, who averaged 105 yards rushing at home against them, it puts a heavy onus on Wilson, whose passing numbers have been pedestrian recently.

Wilson, of course, is like Kaepernick with his escapability.





NFL

# Pacific pressure

## Bennett, Avril transformed Seattle defensive line into menacing force

By TIM BOOTH  
The Associated Press

**A**dding Michael Bennett and Cliff Avril to the Seattle Seahawks' defensive line has paid big dividends.

The odd part is neither lineman is really serving the roles expected when Seattle general manager John Schneider signed the free agents in the offseason. They've been part of a deep defensive line rotation that has kept players fresh throughout the season. Along the way, Seattle has figured out surprising ways to use its two acquisitions.

The results might mean fewer snaps and less gaudy numbers for everyone involved, but it's a group that knows how to work together and is rested heading into Sunday's NFC championship game against San Francisco.

"I feel like if I was playing 80 or 90 percent of the snaps my body would definitely be beat up a little bit more than it is right now," Avril said. "I'm not playing as much on the first downs so again I think that helps out with the body feeling fresh this late in the season."

Seattle's defensive line is an unusual mix that defensive coordinator Dan Quinn has meshed together to find workable combinations. There's the run-stuffing crew consisting of Red Bryant, Brandon Mebane and Tony McDaniel that has helped Seattle create a run defense that allowed 101.6 yards rushing per game during the season.

Then there is the pass rush crew of Avril, Bennett, Clinton McDonald and Chris Clemons that raised Seattle's sack total from 36 during the 2012 regular season to 44 this season.

Avril and Bennett have been the two biggest contributors to those pass rush numbers. Bennett led Seattle in the regular season with 8½ sacks and Avril was right behind him with eight. Bennett's versatility turned out to be a pleasant surprise for the Seahawks and something they had been seeking in recent seasons. Bennett started the season playing defensive end while Clemons was still recovering from offseason knee surgery. But what the Seahawks discovered was his ability to be a menacing presence as a pass

By the numbers

# 44

Seahawks' team sack total during the 2013 regular season with DEs Cliff Avril and Michael Bennett, up from 36 last season.

# 101.6

Rushing yards allowed per game by the Seattle defense, seventh in the NFL. The 49ers, Seattle's opponent Sunday, allowed 95.9 and is ranked fourth.

SOURCE: The Associated Press, NFL.com



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

**Seahawks defensive ends Michael Bennett (72) and Cliff Avril (56) sack Saints QB Drew Brees last Saturday. The duo combined for 16½ sacks this season for Seattle.**

**Seahawks' DE Michael Bennett**

TED S. WARREN/AP

rusher from the defensive tackle spot.

The task for Avril, Bennett and their teammates this week is among the most difficult they've faced this season: trying to get constant pressure on Colin Kaepernick, all the while trying to contain him so he doesn't escape and make a big play with his legs. Seattle sacked Kaepernick five times total in two games this season, but he still rushed for 87 yards in the first game and 31 in the second.

"For us up front it's getting after the quarterback," Avril said. "You know he's mobile, so some of the pass rushes that you would use against let's say a Drew Brees, you can't use because he'll take off and run."

**Seahawks' DE Cliff Avril**

ELAINE THOMPSON/AP





## NFL PLAYOFFS

# What's Harbaugh's deal? Its just winning

## Emotional coach guides 49ers to their third straight NFC championship game

By JANIE McCauley  
The Associated Press

**J**im Harbaugh pirouetted in frustration following a personal foul on Dan Skuta. He got hit with his own unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for arguing following a catch by Vernon Davis that went to review before being ruled a touchdown.

And that was just last Sunday.

Harbaugh has been at his emotional best — or, to some, worst — with his cartoon-like faces and quirky sideline antics in leading San Francisco back to the NFC championship game for the third time in as many years since taking over as 49ers head coach in January 2011. On Davis' TD during Sunday's 23-10 win at Carolina, Harbaugh ran well onto the field during the play.

"I think Harbaugh gets away with murder myself," former Seahawks coach and ex-49ers assistant Mike Holmgren said. "If I ever did that it would be a penalty."

Harbaugh should be as charged up as ever come Sunday, when he faces off once more against the rival Seattle Seahawks in an NFC championship game featuring sideshow with Pete Carroll. This time, there's a Super Bowl berth on the line.

**'He's the kind of coach you want to win for. He's around, he gets it, he's been there.'**

Phil Dawson  
49ers kicker

now as it would have been then when people made a bigger deal out of it. So, irrelevant, irrelevant."

Sorry, not this week. There's no avoiding such chatter. Harbaugh has to expect that infamous phrase to come up often.

It dates back to their college days coaching in the then Pac-10 Conference. In 2009, Harbaugh and No. 25 Stanford ran up the score on 11th-ranked USC in a surprising 55-21 rout, even attempting a 2-point conversion with the game way out of reach — prompting Carroll's infamous "What's your deal?" when they met afterward at midfield.

Whatever their past or perceived differences, Harbaugh knows what to expect every time a Carroll-coached team takes the field.

"It's hard to get to this position," Harbaugh said. "Talking about a year of preparation and planning and offseason and training camp and games. And they did it better than anybody did it this entire season. So, a great task, great challenge ahead of us."

Place kicker Phil Dawson wanted to be part of the winning vibe after 14 mostly disappointing years with Cleveland. Nose tackle Glenn Dorsey left Kansas City to join a team with Harbaugh at the helm.

Even if Dorsey's first impressions of the coach left him shaking his head.

"I noticed what everybody else noticed: a coach

going crazy on the sideline having fun," Dorsey recalled. "Always pumped up and always getting his team hyped. He works hard, even now being on the inside seeing him every day and how he goes about doing his job, the enthusiasm that he has and the motivational stuff that he has, the knowledge that he has. He's a great coach."

Dawson appreciates how Harbaugh takes chances in the kicking game based on his trust in the veteran.

The 50-year-old Harbaugh, a 15-year NFL quarterback himself, regularly moves around the team plane to visit with players about football and life. He shares meals with rookies and veterans alike on occasion in the team cafeteria.

"He's the kind

of coach you want to win for," Dawson said.

"There's a special satisfaction with having a relationship with the head coach. Being a place kicker, on a

lot of teams the head coach never even speaks to the kicker. He's around, he gets it, he's been there. He's sat in those seats. I think it's probably one of the biggest reasons he's successful is his ability to communicate with the guys and relate to them on their level and be able to instill whatever it is he's trying to instill in a way that guys will receive it."

AP Sports Writer Tim Booth in Renton, Wash., contributed to this report.



**San Francisco 49ers (14-4)  
at Seattle Seahawks (14-3)**  
AFN-Sports  
12:30 a.m. Monday CET  
8:30 a.m. Monday JKT

San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh watches the scoreboard against the Carolina Panthers during the first half of their NFC divisional playoff game on Sunday in Charlotte, N.C.

GERRY BROOME/AP

### Did you know

Jim Harbaugh is the first coach in the Super Bowl era to reach the NFC title game in each of his first three seasons.

SOURCE: The Associated Press



## SPORTS



MCT photos

# TAKE TWO

## Peyton Manning very good at second chances

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

**F**rom rematches to revivals to redemption, it's not a good idea to bet against Peyton Manning when it comes to second chances. He has 97 touchdown throws since hooking up with Broncos executive John Elway in Denver two years ago after the Indianapolis Colts released him when neck troubles clouded his NFL future.

After dispatching San Diego in the playoffs on the anniversary of last year's crushing loss to Baltimore in eerily similar circumstances, Manning is one win from a shot at becoming the first quarterback to win Super Bowls with two franchises.

Standing in his way are Tom Brady and the New England Patriots, who beat the Broncos 34-31 in overtime in November.

The thing is, it's been six years since Manning lost a rematch to a team that beat him during the season. The Broncos lost just once at home this season, when they became the highest-scoring team in the Super Bowl era, propelled by Manning's record 55 touchdown throws and 5,447 yards through the air.

That was on Dec. 12, when they were upset by San Diego, a loss they avenged on Sunday by beating the

**5** Consecutive victories for Peyton Manning in rematches. He has not lost to the same team twice in a row since 2007, when the Indianapolis Colts were beaten by the Chargers 23-21 at San Diego in November and 28-24 at home in the AFC wild-card playoffs.

Chargers 24-17.

The last time Manning lost twice in a row to the same team was in 2007, when the Colts lost 23-21 at San Diego in November and then dropped a 28-24 heartbreaker at home in the wild-card playoffs.

Since then, Manning has won five straight rematches, and it took a vintage performance Sunday to keep that streak going.

After controlling the game for 3½ quarters, the Broncos allowed 17 fourth-quarter points

after losing shutdown cornerback Chris Harris Jr. to a torn knee ligament.

The Broncos were facing third-and-17 from their 20 with three minutes left and Chargers quarterback Phillip Rivers loosening up his right arm on the sideline, ready for his chance to tie this one just like the Ravens had a year earlier on their way to a 38-35 victory in double overtime.

**SEE TWO ON PAGE 59**



New England Patriots (13-4)  
at Denver Broncos (14-3)

AFN-Sports  
9 p.m. Sunday CET  
5 a.m. Monday JKT



San Francisco 49ers (14-4)  
at Seattle Seahawks (14-3)

AFN-Sports  
12:30 a.m. Monday CET  
8:30 a.m. Monday JKT

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